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For an allusion to the story of Reynard the Fox by an English
writer of the sixteenth century see Source on Shakespeare vol 2. p 346

For a Provengal allusion see Tywhit's Chaucer vol 4. p 229.

Gottschel in his introduction speaking of the German Reineke
quale, Morhof as follows "Gryphianander S. I. Beckow,
Legal. C. I. A. 51, kennet den Autoren in Ludovicum
Romanum, davon mir gar nicht wissen." ^{gg} might be the author
gg- Walshew in Uckmar's preface means ^{gg} Latin of the Latin one edited by
None

The most delectable
HISTORY,
OF
Reynard the Fox

Newly Corrected and purged from all
grossenesse in Phrase and matter.

As also augmented and inlarged with sundry excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every severall
Chapter.



London, Printed by J. BELL, 1650.



The Epistle to the Reader.

Hou hast here (curteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightful History of *Reynard the Fox*, which in an humble and low stile (couch'd to the natures of the Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden wisdom, worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course and commerçement of thy life and actions; for the aime at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of vice, and the advancement of the good and vertuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath flowne into the world (like *Sibillas*'s

The Epistle to the Reader.

loose papers) covered with much obscurity and darkenesse; I have for thy more ease and contentment, to every severall Chapter annexed the Morals and Expositions of such darke places, as may hold thy judgement in seeking to wind out of a labyrinth so darke and curious; A labour which I doubt not but will prove both pleasant and wholsom, since as a friendly guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray; and as a pleasant companion hold thee with such a full discourse, that thy Journey therein will neither bee long nor irkesome: at which end if it arrive with a faire safety as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this and other mens indeavours.

Farewell.

The



The Pleasant
H I S T O R Y
O F
Reynard the Fox.

C H A P. I.

How the *Lion* proclaimed a solemn Feast at his Court, and how *Iesgrim the Wolfe* and his Wife, and *Curtis the Hound*, made their first complainces of *Reynard the Fox*.

AND at the Feast of Pentecost (which is commonly called Whirkontide) when the woods are in their lusty-head and gallantry, and every tree cloathed in the greene and white libery of glorious leabes, and sweet smelling blossomes, and the earth covered in her fairest mantle of Flowers, whiche the Birds with much joy entertaine with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Then at this time and enterance of the lusty Spring, the Lion the Royall King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-time withall triumphant ceremonie, intends to keepe open Court at his great Palace of Sanden, & to that end (by solemn Proclamation) makes knowne over all his Kingdome to all Beast whatsoeuer, that upon paine to be held contemptuous every one should resort to that great celebration: so that within few daies after (at the time prefirred) all Waits both great and

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fall came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their severall Complaint against the Fox, but especially Isegrim the Wolfe, who being the first and principallest complainant, came with all his Lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest Soberaigne Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses, and unsufferable injuries which that unworthye creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your highnes some tace, first know (if it please your Majestie) that this Reynard

of Reynard the Fox.



Reynard, came in my house by violence, and against the will of *The M'wall.*
my wife, where finding my children laid in their quiet though, Howsoever a
he there be, pict them in so rank a manner, that with the sharp- vicious man
nesse of his urinē they fell instantely blind, for this offence a day perswades
was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse cape punish- himself to es-
himselfe, and to take a soleme oath that he was guiltlesse of ment, by ab-
that high infurie: but as soone as the boke was tended before senting himself
him (he that well knew his owne guiltinesse) refused to swear, from the pre-
and ran instantely into his hole, bly in contemn of your *M'*. Magistrate,
lestie and your Lawes. This (my dread Lord) many of the yet he de-
noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: ceives himself,
Nor hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other and by his
things he hath trespass against me, which to relate, neither the contemp a-
time nor your highnesse patience would give suffurance there- nimates his
unto: suffice it, mine injuriez are so great that none can exceed more bold in
them, and the shame and vilanie he hath done to my wife is their com-
such, that I can neither bide nor suffer it unrevenged, but I plaints against
must expect from him amends, and from your Majestie mercy. him, as ap-
When pears here

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by the Wolfe, who, althoough
worse then the
Fox, yet doth
he with his
absence and
the seasona-
ble neise of the
time for free
liberty of
speech, rake
opportunity
to lay the
worst he can
against him,
and by his ex-
ample makes
others of fear-
full nature to
do the like.
And theref re
let no wise
man shrinke
from his just
trall, but ei-
ther defend
his own inno-
cence, or else
submit to mer-
cy, for dead
men and ab-
sent, find slack
Advocates.

When the Wolfe had spoken these words, there stod by him
a little Hound whose name was Curti'e, who stepping for b,
made like toise a grievous complaint (Unto the King) against
the Fox, saying, that in the extreme cold season of the Winter
when the frost was most violent, he being halfe starbed and de-
tained from all maner of prep, had no more meat left him to
sustain his life then on a poyse Pudding; which Pudding (he said)
Reynard had most unjusly taken away from him.



But

of Reynard the Fox.

But the Hound could hardly let these wordes sit from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, in spzang Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling downe before the King, said; My Lord the King, I must confess the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions seacht, each wold have enough to do for his own clearing. Touching the complaint of Curtile the Hound, it was an offence committed many years ago, and though I my selfe complaine of no injury yet was the Hudding mine and not his: for I wan it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay a-sleep, so that if Curtile could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

Whan Panther heard these wordes of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine, Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard shou'd not be complained upon: wby the whole wold knowes he is a murderer, a rafter and a thief, and that indeed he leaveth not truly any creatures, no not his agaestly himself, but wold farrer his highnesse to lose both Honour and renown, so that he might therby attaine to himself but so much as the legge of a farrer wben: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that noba standeth in the Kings protection, he promised unto Kyward, that he wold teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplaine, he made him come lit betwix his leggs and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo: my may late therby and I heard the song: then coming neare, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kyward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wounds on Kyward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broken your peace, and propham'd your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgement of your Lawes, your princely children manie years hereafter shall hear the slander of his evill. Certainly Panther (said I. egrin) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice that desire to live in peace.

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C H A P . 2 .

How Grymbard the Brock spake for Reynard before the King.

Then spake Grimbard the Brocke (that was Reynards sisters Sonne) being much moved with anger: Isegrim



Wolf

of Reynard the Fox.

you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb: Mallice never speake well? what can you say against my kinsman Reynard?

I would you durst aduenture, that which of you had most injured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a felon: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in the Kings labour as you are, it would be much too little satisfaction for you to aske him mercy: you habe many times bitten and iorne my kinsman with your venimous teeth, and ofter much then I can reckon, yet some I will call up to my remembrance.

Habe you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaist which he threwo downe from the Cart, when you followed a false fox fear? yet you deboured the good Plaist alone, and gave him no more but the great bones which you could not eate your self: the like you did with the fat flitch of Bacon, whose taste was so good, that your self alone did eat it up, and when my uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorne, Feire young man thou shalt habe thy share: but he got not any thing, albeit he wonne the Bacon with great fear and hazard, for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a sache, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of these injuries hath Isegim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships judge if they be sufferable: againe he complaineth that my kinsman hath wronng'd him in his wife: 'tis true, and I confess Reynard hath laine with her, yet it was seuen years before Isegim did wed her, and if my uncle out of courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of the soze, nor ought he to complaine of any thing not belong in to him; wisdome would have concealed it, for what credit gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is ungrateful?

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seemes but a trifle, for if he will learn to read, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the Schoole master Reynard, if he give him due correction? for if scholers be not beaten and chastised they will never learn.

Lastly complaineth Curtise that he with great paine had

The Morall.

Vice is never without his advocate, and be a man never so lewde, yet he shall stil find one or other to plead for him, especially where there is either greatness or wealth in the offendour, or any alliance of blood to those in favour, as appears here by the Bruck, which pleads for the Fox, first because he was of his kin, and next he was rich & able to pleasure him; lastly, here is to be observed the insinuation of the Advocate, excusing the Foxes faults with a new forme or penitence, cloaking the ills he had done with zeal and hypocritie, then the which no

The Pleasant History

thing sooner
brings a good
man to be-
lief and for-
givenesse.

gotten a Pudding in the winter, being a season in which vi-
tuals are hard to find: me thinks silence would have become
him better, for he had stolne it: & Male quasiti, & male per-
diditi, 'ns fit it be ebul lost was ebul wonne, who can blame
Reynard to take stolne goods from a thief? It is reason that
he which understands the Law and can discerne right, being
of great and high birth as my kinsman is, do right unto the
law. May had he hang'd up Curule when he took him with the
manner, he had offended none but the King in doing Justice
without leabe; wherefore for respect to his Majestie he did it
not, though he reapt little thankes for his labour: alas how
do these complaints hurt him? mine uncle is a Gentleman
and a true man, nor can he endure falsehood, he doth nothing
without the counsell of his Priest: and I affirme, since my
Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought to hurt
any man: for he eateth but once a day, he libeth as a Recluse,
he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of haire-cloth: it is
above a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly in-
formed by them which came but yesterday from him) he hath
forlaken his Castle Malepardus, and abandoned all royaltie,
a pore hermitage retaines him, hunting he hath forsworne, and
his wealth he hath scattered, living onely by Almes and good
mens charites; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he
is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for he
would faine be with God.

Thus whilste Grimbard his nephewe stood preaching, they
perceived coming downe the hill unto them, stout Chante-
cleere the Cock, who brought upon a Werre a dead Ven, of
whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought to
the King to have knowledge thererof.

C H A P. 3.
How Chanteclere the Cock complained of Reynard
the Foxe.

CHANTECLERE marched somwhat, smote pitiously his
hands and feathers, whilste on the other side the Werre went
two

of Reynard the Fox.



two sorowfull Hens, the one was Tantart, the o ther the good
Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Hol-
land and Arden; these Hens boze each of them a straight bright
burning Taper, and these Hennes were sisters to Coppell
(which lay dead on the Wære) and in the marching they cried
pitifully, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppell our
deare

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The Mcrall.

When wicked men cannot
comprise their

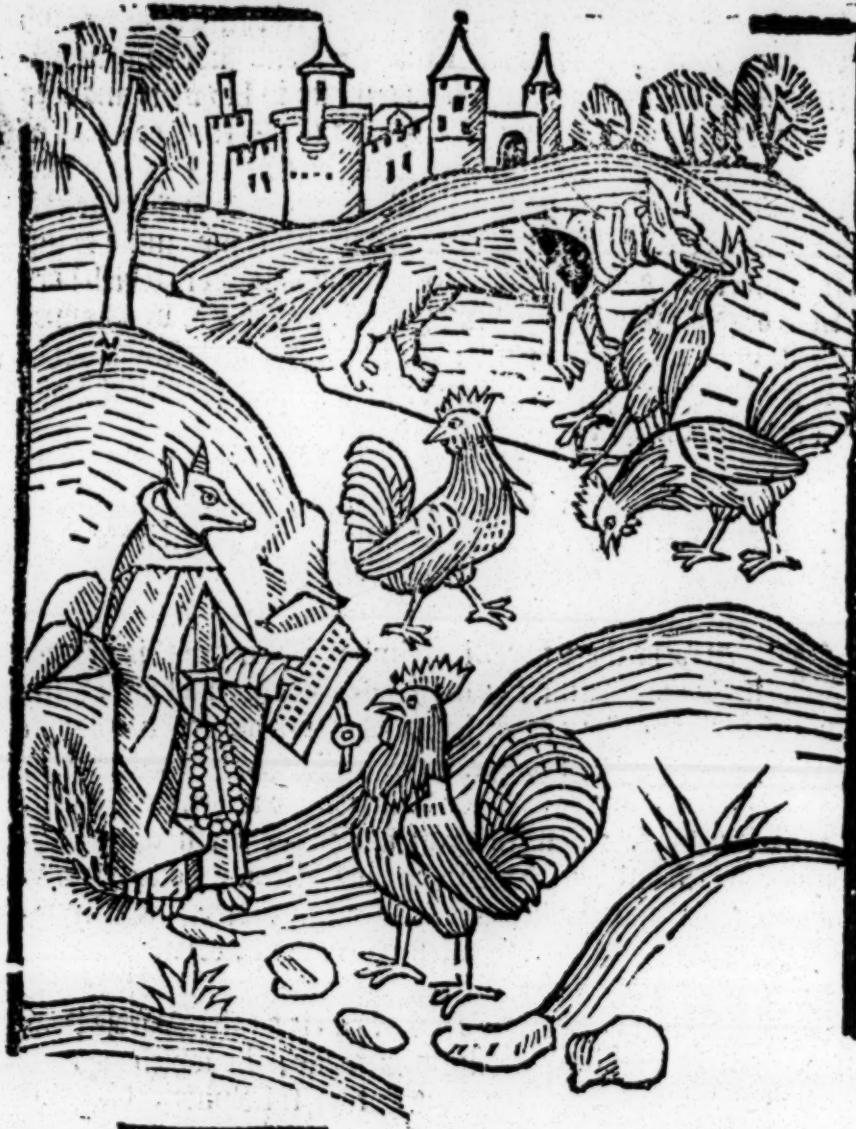
... and the King, bouchsafe, 3

wickednes by
strong hand,
or violence a-
gainst their e-
nemis; then
they study de-
ceits and shitts
to entangle
them: of all
which none is
so powerfull
as the shew of
Religion: for
that working
upon the easie
belief of the
simple, makes
them many
times shippe
themselves in-
to those rough
Seas whence
there is no
help but ship-
wrack, as the
foolish Cock
did to believe
the subtil Fox.
Also in this a
man may see,
that though
an evill man
may be now
cused of some
faulcs, yet still
his sinnes will
so dog him at
the heels that
flesch.

Most mercifull and my great Lord the King
beseech you, to hear our complaint, and redresse those injuries
which Reynard hath unjustify done to me, and my childzen that
here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the
beginning of Aprill, when the weather was faire, I being
then in the height of my pride and glory, because of the great
stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight bold
sonnes, and seauen faire daughters, which my wif had
hatched, all which were strong and fat, and dwelked in a yar-
uell walled and fenced round about, wherein they dwelked
herall sheds for their guard stye stour mastife doggs, which
had toerne the skimes of many wild Beasts, so that my chil-
dren feared not any evill which might happen unto them: But
Reynard, that false and disssembling traytor, envyng their hap-
pie fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the
walles, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogges
divers times were let forth unto him and hunted him away;
yea once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay
the pycce for his thef; and his toerne skinne witnesseth, yet ne-
verthelesse he escaped, the moze was the pitty; yet we were
quit of his trouble a great while after: at last he came in the
likenesse of an Hermite, and brought me a letter to read, sea-
led with your Majesties Seale, in which I found written,
that your Highnesse had made peace throughout all your
Realme, and that no manner of Beast or Fowle shold
do injury one to another, affirming unto me, that for his owne
to perforeme a daily penance for his sinnes; shewing unto me
his beades, his booke, and the haire shirt next to his skinne,
saying in humble wise unto me, Sir Chauntecleere, neber
henceforth be afraid of me, for I have holwed nevermore to eat

3 am

of Reynard the Fox.



in the end he shall be discovered and lie open to Law and punishment, as now it happened to the Fox, notwithstanding the Brocks excuse and maintenance.

I am now waſt old; and woule onely remember my foulſe, therefore I take my leabe: for I haue yet my noon and my even-song to ſay: which ſpake, he departed, ſaying his Credo as he went, and laied him down under a Hawthorne: at this I was exceeding glad, that I tooke no heed, but went and cloſed my children together, and warked without the wall, which

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which I shall eber rue, for false Reynard lying under a bush
came creeping betwixt us and the gate: and suddainly surpris-
ed one of my children, which he trust up in his male and boze
away to my great sorow, for habing tasted the sweetnesse of
our flesh, neither hunter, noȝ hound can protest or keep him
from us: night and day he waits upon us with that gra-
diness, that of fifteen of my children he haȝt left me but four
un-
slaughtered, and yester day Coppel my daughter (which here
lieth dead on this Were) was (after her murther) by a kennel
of hounds rescued from him: This is my complaint, and this
I leabe to your highnes mercy to take pity of me, and the losse
of my faire children.

C H A P. 4.

The Kings answer to the Cocks Complaint, and how they
sung the Dirge.

The Morall.

Here those
that excuse
bad actions,
may see, how
such offices
returne to dis-
grace, because
evill mens vi-
ces being dis-
closed, the ex-
cuses are their
shames that
make them,
as it hapned
now to the
Brock. Also in
the Lion may
be seen the
effects of a
good disposi-
tion, which is
exprest in the

Then spake the King, Sir Grimbard, hear you this of your
uncle the Recluse: he hath fasted and prayed well: well,
believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as soȝ you
Chauntecleere, your complaint is heard and shall be cured: to
your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right of burial,
and with velerme Dirges bring her to the earth with wo-
ship; which finished, we will consult with our Lords, how to
do you right and Justice against the murtherer. Then be-
gan the Placebo Domine with all the verses belongitg to it,
which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Dirge was
done, the bodie was enterr'd, and upon it a faire Marble stone
laid, being polished as bright as glasse; in which was in-
graben in great letters this inscription following, Coppell
Chanteclers daughter whom Reynard the Fox hath slain
lieth here buried; mourn thou that readest it, for her
death was unjust and lamentable. After this the King sent
for his Lords and wisest Councillors to consult how this loule
murther of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was
concluded that Reynard shal'd be sent for, and without all ex-
cuse to appear before the King to answer those charges
should

of Reynard the Fox.

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honours and rights of Bruinall do ne to the Henne, which is a part of satisfaction for the grieve her kin indured; in the Bears willingesse to fetch the Fox, is express how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing that may offend his adversary, and how commonly such imployments miscary.



Should be objected against him, and that this message should be delitered by Bruine the Beare: to all this the king gave consent, calling him before him, said sir Bruine, it is our pleasure that you deliver this message, yet in the delibery thereof habe great regard to your self, for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray, he hath a wrold of shars to intangle you withall, and without great exercis of judgement, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdoms.

C

bea-

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breathing. My Lord (answering Sir Bruine) let me alone with Reynard, I am not such a truant in discretion, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of folly the Bear departed: if his return be as fowill, there is no fear in his well speeding.

C H A P. 5.

How Bruine the Beare sped with Reynard the Fox.



of Reynard the Fox.

15

THIS next morning away went Bruine the Beare in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever, and as hee came through a darke Forrest, in which Reynard had a by-path, whiche he used when he was hunted, hee saw a high mountaine, ober whiche hee must passe to goe to Malepardus: for though Reynard had manie holes, yet Malepardus is his chiefeſt and moſt aſſeſt Castle, and in it he laie both for defence and eafe: Soo at laſt when Bruine was come to Malepardus, he found the Gates cloſe shut, at which after hee had knocked (ſitting on his taile) hee called aloude, Sir Reynard are you at home? I am Bruine your kinsman, whom the King hath ſent to ſummon you to the Court, to anſwer many foule accusations exhibited againſt you, and hath taken a great bole, that if you faile to appeare to this ſummon, that your life ſhall anſwer your contempt, and your goods and honours ſhall be confiſcate at his Highneſſe mercy: Thereforze faire kinsman, bee aduiled by your friend, and goe with me to the Court to ſhunne the danger that eſle will fall upon you. Reynard lying cloſe by the Gate (as his cuſtome was for the warme Sunne ſake) hearing thofe words, departed into one of his holes, ſay Malepardus is full of manie intricate and curiouſ Roomeſ, (whiche labyrinth-rike hee could paſſe thoroſe, when either his danger or the behent of any pike required the ſame) where meditating a while with himſelfe how hee might counterplot and tryng the Beare to diſgrace (whom hee knew loſed him not) and himſelfe to ho-ndit, at laſt he came forth, and ſaid, Deare uncle Bruine, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my ſlowneſſe in comiug, for at your firſt ſpeech I was ſayng my Ebeit-song: and de-voſion muſt not be negeleced: beſeeche me hee hath done you no good ſeruice, nor doe I thankē him whiche hath ſent you this beare and long journey, in which your much ſweat and toyle ſatte excedeth the worth of the laſtout: certaintelie had you not come, I had to morrow beene at the Court of my owne accoſt, yet at this time my worto is much leſſened, in as mihiſt me your counteſtable at this preſent may returme me deuileſtē: ala cratil, could þis graueſome ſirke no meaneſſe

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messenger then your noble selfe to imploie in these tribiall af-
faires? truelie it appares strange to me: especially since next
his royall selfe, you are of greatest renowme both in blood
and riches: for my part I would bee were both at Court,
for I feare our journey will bee exceeding troublesome: for
to speake troth, since I made mine abstinance from flesh,
I have eaten such strange new meates, that my boodie is verie
much distempered, and swellethe as if it would breake. *Was
deare cousin* (said the Beare) *what meat is that which
maketh you so ill?* *Uacle* (answered he) *what will it profit
you to knowe?* the meat was simple and meane; we pore men
are no Lords, you knowe, but eat that for necessarie, which
others eat for wantonnesse: yet not to delaie you; that which
I eat was honyn-combs, great, full, and most pleasant, which
compelled by hunger, I eat too unmeasurably, and am there-
by infinitely distempered. *Ha* (quoth Brune) *honne-combs:
do you make such slight respect of them.* *Sayeth*: *why it is
meate for the greatest Emperour in the world:* *Faire
pheo,*

The Morall.

In this incoun-
ter between
the Fox and
the Beare, is
exprest the
dissimulation
of two wicked
persons, each
plotting to do
the other

of Reynard the Fox.

phe to ; helpe me but to some of that honie, and commyn the
whilst I live, for one little part thereof, I will be your servaunt
everlastingly. Sure said the Fox (Uncle) you but jest with
me : But jest with you (replied Bruine) be shew to my heart then :
for I am in that serious earnest, that for one ickle therat, you
shall make me the faithfulest of all your kindred. Nay (said the
Fox) If you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where
so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to deborurz it at a
meale, onelie for your lebe sake, which abobe all things I de-
sire, Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Beare) it is impossible :
for had I all the honie betwixt Hibal and Portugall, yet I
could in a shor space eat it all my selfe. Then know Uncle
(quoth the Fox) that neere at hand here dwelleth a husband-
man named Lanfert, whos is master of so much honie, that you
cannot consume in seuen yeres, which for your lebe and friend-
ship sake, I will put into your safe possession. Bruine mad
upon the honie, swore, that to habe but one good meale thereof
he would not onlie be his faithfull friend, but also stuppe the
mouthes of all his aduersaries. Reynard smilng at his easte
believe, said, If you will habe seuen tun Uncle, you shall habe
it. These words pleased the Beare so well, and made him so
pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well thought the Fox, this is good fortune, sure I wil lead
him where he shall laugh moze measurable : and then said,
Uncle, we must delais no time, and I will spare no paine for
your sake, which for none of my kinne I would perferme, out (to loose
The Beare gave him manis thanks, and so away they went,
the Fox promising him as much honie as he could beare, but
meant as manie strokis as hee could undergee : in the end
they came to Lanferts house, the sight whereof made the Bear
rejoyce. This Lanfert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, whos
the other daie had brought into his yard a great Dake, which
(as theit manner is) he began to cleabe, and had struck into it
two wedges ; in such wise, that the cleft stood a great while
open : at which the Fox rejoiced much, for it was answerable
to his wish, so that with a lauging countenance hee said to the
Beare, Behold now deare Uncle, and be carefull of your

mischiefe :
wherein
though the
wilest com-
monly get the
victory at first,
yet the just
cause in the
end prevaleth
In the Beares
greedines to
eat honey is
exprest, the la-
scivious incon-
stancy of a
loose and un-
restrained na-
ture, that for
a minutes in-
joying of their
own delights,
quite forget
the busines &
cares they have
in hand. In the
Fox is exprest
the cunning of
wisdome,
which ever cast
out (to loose
natures) those
baits of de-
light, which
being swallow-
ed with gree-
diness, do ever
choak the
swallower, as
appeareth by
the Bear who
is not

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only wounded, and in-
danger of his
life, but also
made a mocke
and scorne to
his enemies.
Also by the
cruelty used
on the Beare
by the com-
mon people, is
shewed, how
when an ill
man is once
snared in his
vices, how e-
very one of
what degree
soever, from
the highest to
the lowest, are
ready to pro-
secute and re-
venge them-
selves for the
ills they have
received.



esse, for within this tree is so much bonie, that it is unmea-
suarable, trie if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eat mode-
rately: for albeit the combs are sweet and good, yet a surfeit
is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your bodie, which I
would not for a world, since no harme can come to you, but
must be my dishonour. For who not for me, Neþwyl Reynard
(said

of Reynard the Fox.

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said the Bear) nor thinke me such a foole that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true my best Uncle, I was to bold, I pr'y you enter in at the end, and you shall find your desire. The Bear with all haste entred the tree, with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite ober the ears: which when the Fox perceved; he instantly ran and pulled the wedges out of the tree, so that he lockt the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availeld the Beare, for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so false a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas, what profited now his great Strength and valour? why they were both causes of moze vexation: and finding himself destinate of all relief, he began to howle and bray, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise, that Lanfert amazed, came hastily out of his house, habing in his hand a sharp booke, whilist the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a far off seeing, he said to the Bear in scorn, Is the honey good (Uncle) which



you

The pleasant History

you eat? how do you? eat not too much I beseech you: pleasant thin^{gs} are apt to surfe^t, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full) he will give you drinke to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards his Castell. But by this time, Lanfer finding the Bear fast taken in the tree: he ran to his neighbours and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there. Which being noised thorow all i.e. Cowne, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither. some with one weapon, and some with another; as Goads, Rakes, Broomstaves, or what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Crosse: the Clarke, the holy-water sprinkled, and the Priests wife Dame Jullocke with her distaffe, for she was then spinning: nay, the old Wessdames came that had nere a tooth in their heads. This army put Bruine into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundering upon him, he roar^{ed} and pulled so extreanly, that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also: in so much that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast, for the blood coobering all his face, and his hands leabing the claws and skin behind them, nothing remained but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to, for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so becudgell'd him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all his misery, to know that ever the weakest shall all go most to the wals: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercized the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked legge, and Lucolfe with the long braad nose, the one with a leaden mall, and th' other with an Iron whip, all to be lashed porrely sir Bruine, not so much but sir Bertolfe with the long fingers, Lanfert and Ortam did him mere annoyance then all the rest, the one having a sharp wretched hook: the other a crooked stasse well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stab-ball with.

all,

of Reynard the Fox.

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all, there was Birkin, and Armes Ablequak, Bane the Pyle, with his stasse, and Dame Jullocke his wife, all these so belabour'd the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poore Bear in this spassacre sate and sighed extreemly, groaning under the burthen of their strokis, of which Lanferts were the greatest and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of Calport was his Mother, & his Father was Marob \ddagger Steeple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine received of him many showers of stonis till Lanferts Wyther rushing before the rest with a stasse, strooke the Bear in the head such a blow, that he could neither hear ner see, so that awaking from the astonisement, the Bear leapt into the Riber adjoyning, through a cluster of wibes there standing together, of which he threw divers into the water which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one; which the Parson seeing how she floated like a sea-new, he lest striking the Bear, and cried to the rest of the company, help, oh help, Dame Jullocke is in the water, help both men and women, for whosoeber saves her, I give free pardon of all their sinnes and transgresions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard, every one left the Bear to help Dame Jullocke, which as done as the Bear saw, he cut the stream and swam away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in his rage; Turne villaine, that I may be rebenged of thee, but the Bear swam in the strength of the streame and suspected not his calling, for he was pround that he was so escaped from them: onely he bitterly curst the Honey tree and the Fox, which had not onely betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood from his face, and his globes from his fingers: in this sort he swam some threemiles downe the water, in which time he grew so weary, that he went on land to get ease, where blood trickled downe his face, he groaned, sighed, and drew his breath so hort, as if his last houre had been expiring: Now whilist these things were in doing, the Fox in his way banis stole a fat Hen, and threwo her into his male, and running thorow a by-path that no man might perceive him, he came towards the Riber with infinite joy: for he suspected

D

that

The pleasant History

that the Bear was certainly slaine ; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wylt it, for the greatest enemyn I had in the Court is now dead, noz can any man suspect me guilty thereof: but as he spake these wordes, looking towards the Riber, he espied where Bruine the Bear lay and rested, which struck his heart with grief, & he railled against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, silly foole that thou art, what mad man would have lost such good benison, especially being so fat and wholesome, and for which he took no paines, for he was taken to his hand, any man wold have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding, he came to the Riber, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloudy, of which Reynard was onely guilty, yet in scorne he said to the Bear, Mon Sire, Dieu vous garde. O thou foule red billeyn, said the Bear to himself, what impudence is like to this ? but the Fox went on with his spach, and said, what Uncle ? have you forgot any thing at Lanfert, or have you payed him for the honey-combes you stole ? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my self, sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same price ; Good Uncle, tell me before I goe, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new-fashyoned Hood ? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar ? surely he that shamed your crown, hath cropt your ears, alid your coze-top is lost, and your globes are gone, the buben, ye not bare-handed, they say you can sing Peccavi rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage, but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure : therafter a small rest he plinged agayne into the Riber, and swam down the streame, and landed on the other-side, where he began with much griefe to meditate how he might get to the Court, for he has lost his ears, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a shourend deathes followed him, he could not go, and yet of necessity he must make, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over, so by degrees tumbling now haſſe a mile, and then half a mile, in the

of Reynard the Fox.

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the end he tumbled to the Court, where divers beholding his straunge manner of appoach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is sir Bruine my servant, what villains have wounded him thus, or where hath he been that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Sovereigne, Lord the King (cried out the Weare) I complaine me grie-
vously unto you; behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you rebenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your revall pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my crown I swear I will take the rebenge which shall make the traytors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Councell, and consulted, how, and in what sort to persecute against the Fox, where it was generally concluded, that he should be againe summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the partie to summon him, they appointed to be, Tybert the Cat, as well for his grabyt as wisdome: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tybert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

Then the King called for Sir Tybert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tybert, you shall go to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruell to other beastes, yet do you he is emerous, assure him if he falle at your firs commandement, that I will take so severe a coulde against him and his partie, that his example shal terrifie all offenders. Then said Tybert the Cat, O my dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advised you, sae there is nothing in me that can force him either to come or tarry: I beseech your Majestie lond some one of greater power, I am little and fable: besides, if noble Sir Bruine, th. t is so strong & mighty, could not infuze him, what will my weaknesse availe? The King replied, It is your wif-

The Mxall.

By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is exprest the care of Governoours, that when they have been deceived by the pride & ostentation of such as they did imploy, and thought discreet; that then they seek out those that are knowne wise and imploy them, because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdone. In the Cats much lothnes to go, is exprest, the unwillingnes a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them, yet when authority commands, they

dome, Sir Tibert, I imploye, and not your strength, and maner prebaile with Art, when violence returnes with lost labour. Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heaben make my fortune better then my heart presageith. This Tibert made things in readiness, and went towards Mallepardus, and in his jurnie, he sawe come flying towards him one of Saints Martins Birds, to whom the Cat, cried aloud, Haile gentle bird, I beseech thee turne thy wings and fite on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrarie way; and flew on his left syde, then grewe the Cat very heabie for he was wise and skifull in Augurisme and knew the signes to be ominous, nevertheless (as many doe) he armed himself with better hope, and went to Mallepardus, where hee found the Fox standing before his Castle gates, to whom Tibert said Health to my faire cousin Reynard: so it is that the King by me summons you to the Court, in which if you faile or deserre me, there is nothing more assured unto you, then a cruell and a suddain death. The Fox answered, Welome deare cousin Tibert, I obey your command, and wish my Lord the King infinite daies of happiness, onely let me intreate you to rest with me to night, and take such cheare as my simple house affordeth, and to morrow as earlie as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no kinsman I trust so dearely as your selfe. Here was with me the other day the treacherous Knight Sir Bruine the Weare, who lookt upon me with that tyrannous crueltie, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire have hazarded my person with him, but my deare cousin, with you I will goe, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert replied, You speake like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now to goe forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Nay deare cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we encounter with our friends; the night is full of danger and suspition. Well, said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, trulie my store is small, the best I have is a honie combe, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replieith, it is meat I little respect and seldom eat; I had rather have one spouse then all the honie in

of Reynard the Fox.

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in Europe. A mouse said Reynard) why my deare couſin, here
dwelleth a Prieſt heard-by, who bath a Warne by his house ſo
full of mice, that I thinke bafe the Waines in the Parish are
not able to beare them. O deare Reynard (quoth the Cat) doe
but lead me thither, and make me your ſervant for eber: why
(ſaid the Fox) but I be you mice ſo exceedingly? Beyond ex-
preſſion (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond Ulenion of
the delicateſt Cates on Princes Tables: therefore conduce me
thither, and command my friendſhip in any matter: had you
ſlaine my father, my moſter, and all my kinne, I would cleare-
lie forgiue you.

C H A P. 7.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the Fox.

THIS said Reynard, Sure you do but iſt. So by my life,
ſaid the Cat. Well then. (quoth the Fox) if you be in
earnest, I will ſo woorkē that thiſ night I will fill your belly;
'tis not poſſible, ſaid the Cat: then follow me, ſaid the Fox:
for I will bring you to the place preſently: thus awaite they
went with all ſpeed to the Prieſt's Warne, which was well
walled about with a mudd wall, where but the night before
the Fox had broken in, and ſtolne from the Prieſt an excee-
ding fat Hen; at which the Prieſt was ſo angrie, that he had
ſet a grin or ſharpe before the hole to catch him at his next com-
ming, which the falſe Fox knew perfectly; and therefore ſaid
to the Cat, Sir Tibert, crepe in at thiſ hole, and beleebſ it:
you ſhall not tarrie a minutes ſpace; but you ſhall haue moſe
mice then you are able to debour: harke, you may heare
how they peepe: when your bellie is full, come againe,
and I will ſtate and awaite for you here at thiſ hole, that
ta morrow we mate ge together to the Court: but good couſin,
ſtate not too long, for I know, my wife will houſtly expect
us. Then (ſaid the Cat) thiſke you I maie ſafelie enter in
at thiſ hole: theſe Prieſts are wiſe, and ſubtil, and couch

The pleasant History



their danger of cleare, that rashnesse is soon overtaken. Whiche
 cousin Tibert, (said the Fox) I never saw you but the coward
 before; what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat alaymed
 at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was present-
 ly caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the
 Cat felte and perceived, he quickly leapt back againe: so that
 the

of Reynard the Fox.

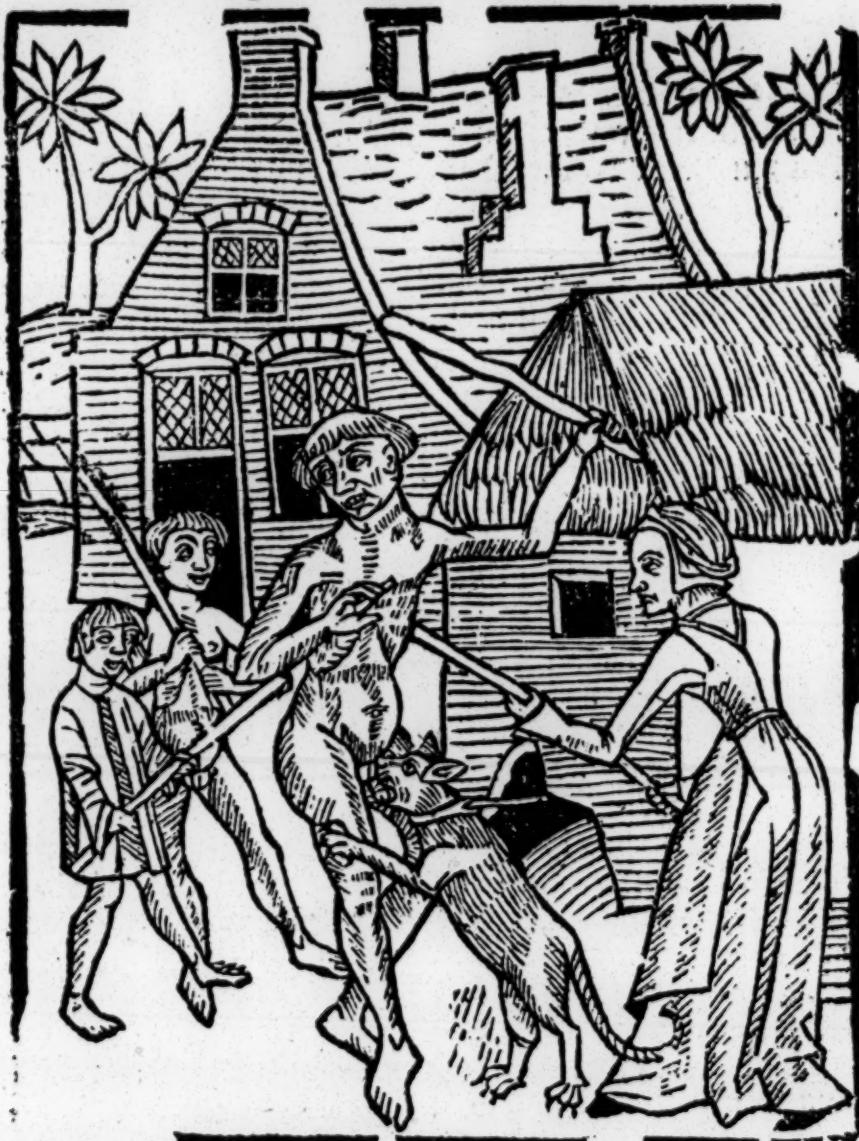
the snare running close together, he was halfe strangled, so that he began to struggle, and crie out & exclaime most piteously, Reynard stod before the hole and heard all, at which hee infinite lie rejoyceth, and in great scorne said, Cousin Tybert, Icbe you spise? I hope they be well fed for your sake; knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would bring you sause quicklie; me thinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion? if it bee, I would Isegrim the Wolfe were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted togeither: but all this while the poore Cat was fast and mewed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of bed, and cried to his people: Arise, for the thief is taken that had stolne our Pens: With these words the Priest unsoورately rose up and awaked all in his house, crying, The Fox is taken, the Fox is taken! and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullocke his wife an Offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tibert, he smote him with a great stacie, and after him many other: so that the Cat received many deadly blowes, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he smote out one of the Cats eies; which he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to daish out the Cats braines: But the Cat perceyving his death so near him, in a desperate moode he leapt between the Priests legges, and with his clawes and teeth so fastned on his genitoz, that in all the great Turkes Seralia, there was not a clearer Gunrah: which when Dame Jullocke his wife saw, she cried out and swore she had rather habe lost the whole Offerings of seben years, then that one poore little morsel: and withall cursit that eber the Gun was invented, and calling Martinet, See, my son, this was thy Fathars delight and my Rebwell: but it is now spoyled, to his shame and my wter losse for eber: for howsoeuer he be cured, yet to me he can never moze be comfortable. All this while Reynard stod before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extreamly, that his body was ready to break: saying to Dame Jullocke, See woman, do not torment your selfe so, the Priest hath lost but one eyne, you may yet receive due benevolence:

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The Mirall.

By the Fox insnaring of the Cat is express, how when wile men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled Friends, they evermore miscarry in their desgnes; and therefore every wise man shoud so temper his affectiōns, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power; How agreeable soever it be either with his Nature or his power. For by the baites of an enemy are only gilded pills, which are faire to locke on, but most bitter to taste; By the mischiefe which the Priest received, is shewed that they which harme watch, harme catch, and that

The pleasant History

the trap which
men now and
then set for o-
thers brings
hurt to them-
selves.



violence: there is manie a Chappell in which but one Well
ringes. Now whilist the Fox thus scotched the Priest's wife,
the poore Priest fell downe in a swoone: so that evertie man
left the Cat, to rebibe the Priest: which whilist they were
doing, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope to escape: but the poore Cat
sitting

of Reynard the Fox.

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fixing all her foes huse about the Priest, she prently began to gnaw and bite the corde, till she had sheared it quite asunder in the midst: which done, she leapt out of the hole and went roaring & stumbling (like the Weare) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was faire daie, and the Sunne being risen, he entred the Court, like the pittifullest beast that ever was beheld; For by the Foxes craft his bodie was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and brokken; one of his eyes lost and his skinne bent and mangled. This when the King beheld & saw Tibert so pittifullly mangled, he grew infinite lie angry and tooke counseil once more, how to rebenge the injuries upō the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbart the Brock, Reynards Sisters son, saide to the rest of the Kings Counsaile, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice so evill as those complaints make him; yet there is remedie enough against his mischiefs: therfore it is fit you doe hem justice as to a man of his ranck, which is, he must be the third time summoned; & if then he appere not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. Then the King demanded of the Brocke, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who would be so desperate to hazard his hands, his eares, nay his life with so tyrannous and irreli- gious? Trulie (answeroed the Brocke) if it please your Ma- jestie, I am that desperate person, who dare aduenture to carry the message to my most subtill Kinsman, if your highnesse but command me.

CHAP. 8.

How Grimbard the Brocke was sent to bid the Fox to the Court.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you; yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtil and malicious. The Brocke thanked his Majestie, and so taking humble leave, went to Mallepardus, where he found Reynard & Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said; Take heed faire Uncle, that

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your

Well
wife.
man
were
nagi-
Cat
biting

The pleasant History

The Morall.

In the sending of the Brocke to fetch the Fox, is shewed that when the vicious cannot be overtaken & brought to answer, then it is meete to use their owne weapons against them, and with pollicy, which can no waybe better done then by employing their kindred, and such as they most dearely affect to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your absence from the Court adde not more mischief to your cause, then the offence doth deserve: beleewe, it is high time you appeare at the Court, since your delate doth beget but more danger and punishment, the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of Summone; Therefore your wisedome may tell you, that if you delate but one daie further,



there

of Reynard the Fox.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy: for within thre daies your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publique example. Thereforze my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wiſdom, and go with me presently to the Court, I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you; For you habe past thoroȝ many eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilſt the Innoſcence of your cause hath b̄ me you ſpotleſſe from the Tribu‐nall. Reynard anſwered; Neþeþeo, you ſay true and I will be adviſed and go with you, not to anſwer offences, but in that I know, the Court ſtands in need of my counſell; the King's mercy I doubt not, if I may come to ſpeak with his Maieſtie, though mine offences were tene times doubled, for I know the Court cannot ſtand without me, and that ſhall his highneſſe understand truly, though I know I habe many enemies, yet it troubles me not: for mine Innoſcence ſhall awaken their injuries, and they ſhall know what in high matters of State and poliſ, Reynard cannot be miſſing: they may well harp up‐on things, but the pitch and ground muſt come from my relati‐on: it is the enbie of others hath made me leabe the Court, for though I know, their ſhallownes cannot diſgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppreſſe me; Neþerþelesſe (Neþeþeo) I will go with you to the Court, and anſwer for my ſelf, and not hazard the welfare of my wife and Children: the King is too mighty, and though he do me injurie, yet will I bear it with patience. This ſpoke, he turn'd to his wife and ſaid, Dame Ermelin habe care of my children, eſpecially Reynikin my young‐est Son, for he had much of my love, and I hope will follow my ſteps; alſo Rossal is paſſing hopeful, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I eſcape doubt not but my love ſhall requite you. At this leabe taking Ermelin wept, and her children bowled: for their Lord and būtualer was gone, and Maleopardus left unþoþidde.

The pleasant History

C. H A P. 9.

How Reynard shrove him to Grimbart the Brock.

The Morall.

The shrift of the Fox shewed, that when evill men are in danger, then they ever fain most religion and by a shew of penitence win pitry from those that dive not into the depth of their deceit & knavery, whereby though they be never so evill, yet they get a good name, & steale opinion of the multitude. By the absolution which the Brocke gave the Fox, is shewed, how easily an honourable simple man may be brought to beleeve a knaves penance, and how apt they are to forgive trespasses upon

WHEN Reynard and Grimbart had gone a good way on their journey Reynard stayed and said, Dear ~~she~~ phew, blame me not if my heart be full of eare, for my life is in great hazard, yet to blot out my stynes with repentance, and to cast off the burthen, give me leaue to shcribe my selfe unto you; I know you are holy, and habing received permance for my sin, my soule will be at quiet. Grimbart bid him proceed, Then said the Fox, Confitabor tibi pater. Nay said the Brock, if you will shrieve you to me, doe it in English, that I may understand you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live, and especiall mine Uncle Bruine the Weare, whom I lately massacred, then Tibert the Cat whom I insnared in a grin. I have trespassed against Chaunteclear & his Children, and have devoured many of them; nay, the King hath not been quiet of my malice, for I have slandered him and his Quene, I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolfe, & called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ranne in my heines: I made him a sponke of Elmane, where I became also one of the order onelie to doe him open mitchies. I made him binde his feet to a bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the peale had like to have cost him his life, the men of the parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and feeleth the stripes at this instant. I led him to steale Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he fed so tremble, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Town upon him; and then went where the Priest was. set at meat with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatched away, so that the Priest cried out kill the Fox, for never man saw thing so strange, so that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meat from before me.

This is a boldnesse beyond knowledge: and with these woordes he threwo his knife at me, but he miss me, and I ranne away whilst



fained sorrow,
which indeed
should not be
done without
a more strict
& severe ex-
amination. The
Foxes leading
the Brock by
the monestery,
and taking the
Capon, shew-
eth that where
wickednesse is
rooted and
made as it
were a habit,
that there not-
withstanding
all hypocrisie,
it will flash
out, and a
knave will be
a knave in de-
spight of all
perswasions &
good counsell,

whilst he pursued me crying, Kill the Fox, Kill the Fox, and
after him a world of people, whom I lead to the place where
Isegrim was, and there I let the Henne fall, for it was too
hearie for me (yet much against my will) and then springing
through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest tooke
up the Henne, he espied Isegrim, and then cried out, Strike
friends

The pleasant History



friends, strike, here is the Wolfe, by no means let him escape us: Then the people ran altogether with clubs and staves, and with a dreadfull noise giveng the poore Wolfe many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortall blowes on the body, that the Wolfe fell down as if he had bin dead, which percell'd, they took him & drag'd him by the hales

of Reynard the Fox.

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heeles oher stockes and stones, and in the end threwo him into a ditch without the village, and there he laie all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seben Hennes and a Cock, set on a pearch all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a fall doore, on which we climed: then I told him if he wold crepe in at the doore, he shold finde the Hennes. Then I segrim with much joy went laughing to the doore, and entring in a little, and groping about, he said Reynard, you abuse me, for here is nothing; then replied I, Uncle, they are further, and if you will have them, you must aduenture for them: those which used to sit there, I my selfe had long since: at this the Wolfe going a little further, I gabe him a push forward, so that he fell down in the hault, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise that they which were asleepe in the house, awaked and cried, that something was fallen down at the trap doore: whereupon they arose and lighted a candle and espyngh him, they beate and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolfe to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my minde, I will reveale to you hereafter. I have also grieuously offended against Dame Ar-sewind his wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle said Grimbart, I understand you not, you make your chyf imperfect, for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Pardon me, Pephewo, I know you hate to heare dishonour of women: the truth is, I have laine with her. Thus have I told you my wickednesse, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Grimbart was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Pephewo, You shall three times strike your bodie with this rod, and then lade it downe upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bowing your legges or stumbling: then shall you take it up and kisse it gentle in signe of meekenesse and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sinnes committed this daie, for I pronounce unto you cleare remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad; and then Grimbart said unto him; See that hence forth

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Forth Uncle you good workes, reade your Psalter, goe to Church, fast vigils, keepe holie daies, give almes, and leabe your sinfull and evill life, your theft, and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attame mercy. The Fox promised to per-forme all this, and so they went together towards the Court: but a little besides the waie as they went, stood a religious house of Iunes, where many Giese, Hennes and Capons went without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grim-bard out of his right waie to that place, & finding the Pullain walking without the Barne, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellowes: at which hee suddainlie leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his eares; but the Capon escaped: which Grimbart see-ing, said, Accursed man, what will you doe, will you for a sillie Pullet fall again into all your sinnes: mischiese it selfe would not doe it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me deare Me-phbo, I had forgotten my selfe, but I will aske forgiferesse, and mine eye shall no more wonder: and then they turned over



a little

of Reynard the Fox.

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a little widge: but the Fox still glaunced his eye towards the Pullaine, and could by no meanes refraine it, for the ill that was bred in his bones, still stuck to his flesh, and his minde carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Wocke noting, said, Fie, dissembling cousin, why wander your eye so after the Pullaine? The Fox replied, Nephew, you doe me injurie so to mistake me, for mine eyes wondred not, but I was saying a Pater noster for the soules of all the Pullaine and Geese which I have slaine and betrayed, in which devotion you hindred me. Well, said Grimbart, it may be so, but your glances are suspitions. Now by this time they were come into the way againe, and made back towards the Court, which asson as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer for they were infinite and haynous.

CHAP. 10.

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excused himselfe.

As soone as it was bruted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, compared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Rynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garbe, and he went as proude as ever he was went with his nephew through the high street, and came as gallantlie into the Court, as if he had been the Kings sonne, and as cleare from trespass, as the most innocent whosoever: and when he came before the chaire of State, in which the King sat, he said, Heaben give your Majestie glory and renoun above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your highnesse there was never King had a truer servant then my selfe have beene to you, and yet am, and so will die: Neverthelesse (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seeke my confusion, if they could woume beliefe with your Majestie; but you scorne the flauders of malice, and although in these

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dates

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*The Morall.*

In the Foxes appearing at the Court is shewed, that when a malefactor is brought before the Justice that then is the fit time for all men that have bin injured, to utter their complaints,

dayes flatters have the most reomes in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not so, nor shall they reape any thing but shame for their labours. But the King cut him short at these words, and said, Peace, trayterous Reynard, I know your dissimulation, and can expound your flatterie, but both shall now faile you: thinke you I can be caught with the musick of your words?

of Reynard the Fox.

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words: no, it hath too oft deceived me: the peace with I am
manded and swoze unto, that have you broken. And as hee
would have gone forward, Chauntecleere crying out, O how
have I lost this noble peace? Be still Chauntecleere (said the
King) and then he proceeded, Thou debill among good ones,
with what face canst thou saie thou levest me, and seest all those
bewitched creatures readie to disproue thee, whose very wounds
yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which behelpe thy
dearest life shall answer. In nomine patris, &c. said the Fox,
My dread Lord, if Bruines cowne be bloody, what is that to me?
if your Majestie imployed him in a message. and hee would
neglect it to steale honle at the Carpenders house, where he re-
ceived his wounds, howe haile I amend it? if reuenge he sought
why did he not take it himselfe? he is strong and puissant, it
was not for to be looke for at my wickednesse. As for Tibert the
Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my wil
or advice, will steale into the Priest barne to catch Mice and
there lose his eyes, nay his life; wherein is mine offence, or howe
become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may doe
your royll pleasure, and howe ever mine innocence plead, yet
your will may adjuide me to what death contents you: I am
your bessale, and have no suppozt but your mercy: I know
your strength and mine own weakesse, and that my death
can yield you but small satisfaction, yet whatsoeuer your will
is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake,
Bellin the Ram stopt forth, and his Ewe-dame Oleway, and he
sought the King to heare their complaint; with them Bruine
the Weare and all his mighty linage: And Tibert the Cat, Ic-
grim the Wolfe, Kyward the Hare, & Panther the Boze, the
Cammel and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Coalt, Bauld-
win the Asse, Borel the Bul, and Hamell the Dr, the Wessel,
Chauntecleere the Cock, & Pattlet with all her children. All
these with one entire noyse cried out against the Fox, and so
moted the King with their complaints, that the Fox was ta-
ken and arrested.

because then-
only redresse
is to bee had
In the Lyon is
express the
lawfulness of
Justice, and
how terrible it
is to every of-
fender, especi-
ally such as
have the guilt
of Conscience
whithin them.
The Foxes
bold behavi-
our shewes,
that impudent
malefactors
when they are
called in que-
stion, make
audacity their
chiefe guard,
and by rayling
against their
adversaries,
doe seeke to
extenuate the
loosenesse of
their offences,
but truth and
justice will not
bee hood-
winckt.

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CHAP. II.

How the Fox was arrested and judged to death.

UPON this arrest a Parliament was called, and every voice went th^t Reynard shuld be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection severally, though great Art was used both in one and the other; to the wonderfull admiration of all that heard him. But witnessses examined, and every proesse made pregnent, the Fox was condemned & judgement was given, that he should be hanged till his bodie were dead. And whiche sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery nor no words now prevaile. This done, Grimbart his Nephew, and divers others were him in blood, (which could not indure to see him die) took their leate of the King & departed from the Court. When the King noted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence, all sad and weeping being neare of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himselfe, It behobeith us to take good and mature counsaile, though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many friends, and moze vertues. As the King was thus thinking the Cat said to the Weare: Sir Bruine and you Sir Isegim, Why are you slow in this Execution? the Even is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himself of this danger, his subtillie is so great, that not all the Art in the world shall ever againe intangle him: If you meane to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallowes can be made, it will be darke night. At these words Isegim remembryng himselfe, said, There is a paire of Gallowes neare at hand (and with that fetch a deepe sigh) which the Cat notin^t, said: Are you afraid sir Isegim, or is this execution against your minde? you may remember that it was onelis his wroke, that bath your brethen were hong'd: and sure had you Judgement, you would thank him for the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegim half angrie answered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reason, yet had we a halter that would fit his necke.

of Reynard the Fox.

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necke, we wou'd stonne dispatch him, Reynard that had beene
silent a great while said: I beseech you shorten my paine; Sir



Tibert hath a Corde strong enough, in which himselfe was
hang'd at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests geni-
tors, besides he can climbe well and swift: **D** let him be mine

F. 3.

Erecu.

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By the violence of the Beare, the wolfe and the Cat, in perswasing the Fox to death, and making themselfes executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischiefe, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours, then their revenges so blind is wrath, and deformed it makes men that are cloathed therewith.

The Foxes patience and milde temper, shewes, that when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their vertues, especially meekenesse.

Executioner, for it neither becameth Isegrim nor Bruine thus to doe to their Nephews: I am sorry I like to see it. But since you are set to be my hangmen, plaine your parts and delay not: goe before Bruine, and lead my waie; folwes Isegrim, and beware I escape not: you saie well said Bruine, and it is the best counsaile I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his bodie: when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed, yet said: O why doe you put your selbes (my best kinsman) to this pain, to doe me hurt: believe it I could well aske you forgiuenesse, though my paines be pleasant unto you, yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, she wold for old affection sake not see me thus tormentid: But I am subject to your will, and can endure your wrost malice: as for Bruine and Tyburt, I leabe my revenge to justice, and wish you the reward of Tzaitors, if you doe not to me the wrost of your powers: I know my wrost fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past alreadie, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quicke he banished, therefore the wrost of death is familiar unto me. Then said Isegrim, let us goe, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on one side & Bruine on the other, led the poore Fox to the Gallowes; Tiburt running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobilitie, tooke their place to see the Fox die. When Reynard full of sorrow, and busshie bethinking himself, how he might escape that danger, and how to inthal and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his partie, saying to himselfe, Though the King & manie others be offended with me as they have reason, for I have throughtly deserued it, nevertheless yet I hope to like to be their best friend: During this meditation the Wolfe said: Sir Bruine, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the daie is come we wylt for; Tiburt, ascend quicke and bring the rope to the Gallowes making a running noose, for this daie you shall have your will

of Reynard the Fox.

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will of your enemy: and god Sir Bruine take heed he escape not, whilst I my selfe raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared the Fox said, Now may my heart be hearie, for Death stands now in all his hozes before me, and I cannot escape; my dread Lord the King, and you my Soberaigne Lady the Queene, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Bone; that I may unlock my heart before you, and cleare my soule of her burthen, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for mee: which done, death will be easie, and the assistance of your prayers will raise my soule to heaben.

CHAP. 12.

Hoh Reynard made his confession before the King.

EVERY creature now tooke compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: whitch was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Helpe me, Heaben: for I see no man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evill no naturall inclination in me, for in my YOUTH I was accounted as vertuous as any bzeathing: this know, I have plaid with the Lambs all the daie long, and took delight in their pretty bleating, yet at last in my plaire I bit one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet unto me, that I approbed the Flesh, and bath were so sweet, that since I could never forbeare it; This liquorish humour dzevo me into the Woods amangst the Goats, whers hearing the bleating of the little kids, I slew one of them, and after two more, whitch slaughter made me so hardie, that then I fell to murther Hens Geese and other Pullaine. And thus my crimes increased by custome, and fury so possesse me, that all was fit which came to my net; After this in (the winter season) I met with Isegrina wheras he laye hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolde unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Pe degree downe so plaine, that from that daie forth he became fellowes and companions: whitch knot of friendship I may eber curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughers.

he

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hee stol the great things, I the small; he murthered Nobles, I
the meanes Subjects : and in all our actions his share still



was ever the greatest: when he got a Ramme, a Calfe, or
wolicher, his fury would hardlie afford me the hornes to pick
on: nay when he had an Ox, or a Cow, after himselfe, his
Wife,

of Reynard the Fox.

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wife and his seben children were serbed, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that I wanted (for it is toell known I habe moze plate, Jewels and coine, then twenty Carts are able to carry) but ouely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speake of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof, and he said Reynard, where is that treasure you speake of? The Fox answered, O my Lord, I shall willingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolne, and had it not been stolne in that manner which it was, it had cost your Highnesse your life (which heauen I beseech keep ever in their protection.) When the Quene heard that dangerous speche, she started, and said, What dangers are these you speake of, Reynard? I do command you upon your soules health, to unfold these doubtfull speches, and to keep nothing concealed which concerns the life of my dread Lord. The Fox with a sorowfull and sad countenance replied to the Quene, O my dread Soveraigne Lady, at what infinite eale were I, if I might die at this present? but gracious Madame, your coniuration and the health of mine own soul to prebaileth with me; that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speake nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. Tis true, the King should habe been pitteously murdred by his own people, and I must confess by these of my dearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine own soul and my fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discobrer, said: Is this true Reynard which you protest? The Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case wherin I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poor glasse to runne: Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? what can the whole world availe me, when my soule perisheth? and at that he trembled, and lookt so pittifullly, that the Quene had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his own Royall person, to take some pity of the Fox, and to command all his subjects to hold their peace, and keep silence till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

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By the Foxes confession and accusation of his enemies is expressed a three-fold subtilty in the Fox. First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed his sorrow for the same, and the little hope he had of life, which piercing into the weak nature of the Queene being a woman, and subject to pity, begot much compassion towards him.

2. The accusing of those whom he was knowne most assuredly to love, was a means to draw beliefe to that hee spake.

3. The ingaging the life of the King, and making the treason so soule was a way to affright the

all which was presently done, and the Fox practised in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my soberaigne Lord the King, and that his royall life lieth in the ballance with my present death, I will freely and boldlie unfold this capitall and soule treason, and in the relation not speare any guiltie person for any respect whatsoeuer, whether it be blood, greatnessse, or authoritie: Know then, my dread soberaigne Lord the King, that my father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ermicks treasure, being a masse infinite and innumerable: of which being possest, he grew so proud and haughtie: that he held in scorne all the Beasts of the Wildernes, which before had been his kinsmen and companions; at last he caused Tybert the Cat to goe into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruine the Beare, and to tender to him his homage and fealtie, saying, If it would please him to be King, he shoulde come into Flaunders, where he would shew him meanes how to set the Croton upon his head. Bruine was glad of this Embassage (for he was exceeding ambitious, and had long thirfied for soberaigne) and thereupon came into Flaunders where my Father received him noble. Then presently hee sent for the wise Grimbart my Neophew, and for Isegrim the Wolfe, and for Tybert the Cat: then these fife comming betweene Gaunt and the village called Else, they held a solemne Counsaile for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my fathers riches it was there concluded, that your Majestie should bee soorthwith murdered: which to effect, they tooke a solemne oath in this manner: The Beare, my father Grimbart and the Cat, laying their hands on Isegrims Crobone, stooze first to make Bruine their King, & to place him in the chaire of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperiall Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance, they should bee gain-said, that then my father with his treasure should hire those which should utterlie chase and root them out of the Forrest. Now after this determination held and finished, it hapned that my Neophew Grimbart being one a time high flobone with wine, he discovered this damnable plot to danie Slope-cade

of Reynard the Fox.

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caide his wife, commanded her upon her life to keep secret the same: but she forgetfull of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my wife, as they went a Pilgrimage ober an Heath, with like conjuration of secretes: But she (woman-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gabe me a ful knowledge of all that had passed, yet so as by all meane I must kepe it secret too, for she had swoyn by the thre Kings of Cul- len never to disclose it; and withall, she gabe me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true whiche she had spoken: in so much, that the very affright therof made my haire stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, cold and heabie in my boosome, whiche made me call to mind the sto-rie of the Frogs, who being free and without subjection, com- plained to Jupiter, and desired they might habe a King to rule and govern ober them, and he presently sent them a Stooge, which eat and devoured them up: so that by his tyramie they became the most miserable of all creatures: then they com- plained againe to Jupiter for redresse, but it was then too late: for they whiche could not be content with their freedome, must now of necessitie suffer in thralldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sor- rowed for your Majestie, although you little respect my grie- ving: I know that ambition of the Beare, and his tyramie is so infinite great, that shoulde the government come into his hands (as heaben forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed: Besydes, I know your Majestie of so royall and Princely birth, so mightie, so gracious, and so mercifull, that it had beene a damnable exchange to habe seyne a rabenous Beare sitt in the throne of the royall Lyon, for there is in the Beare and in his generation moze prodigall loosenesse and in- constancie, then in any Beast whatsoeuer. But to procede, from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might undoe my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base Traitor and a slave into the throne Emperiall: for I wel perceived as long as he held the Treasure, there was a pos- sibility of deposing your Majestie, and this troubled my thought exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might find out where

Queene, and others of her tendernesse of heart, and to bring his ene- mies into disgrace and scandal, wherein the Fox sheweth, that he which will slander, or will have any untruth belie- ved: must first strengthen his opinion with pitty, then get belief, and lastly exercise his mischiefe, against all which a wise man will shute his ears as the Lion did: If he be not o- ver-tempted by those he loves as the Lion was by the Queene, and his own covetousnesse in desiring that infinite treasure, thru which there is nothing drawes a man sooner to the belief of un-

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truth and of falsehood : for what a man desires, that his owne des-
sire will make him credit, and where such credit is given there com-
monly the wicked escape from punish-
ment, as here it fell out with the Fox.

my Fathers Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in



the open fields : nay, in all places wheresoever my father laid his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it happened on a time as I was laid downe flat on the ground, I saw

of Reynard the Fox.

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saw my father come running out of a hole, and as saine as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discernded him: then seeing the coast cleare, hee stopped the hole with sand, and made it so eben, smoothe and plaine, that no curious eye could discern a difference twixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his taile he strok over, and with his mouth so smoothened that no man might perceiue it: and indeed that and many other subtleties, I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, awaie he went towvards the village about his pribate affaires: then went I presentlie towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subteltie, I quicklie found it out, then entered I the Cabe, where I found that innumerable quantitie of treasure, which cannot bee exprest: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to helpe me, and we ceast not day nor night with infinite great toyle and labour, to carrie and convey away this treasure to another place, much more conuenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus imployed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors, about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Isegrim the Wolfe should trabaile over all the Kingdome, and promise to all Beasts that wold take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their soveraigne, and defend his title, a full yeares pate before hand. And in this journie my father accompanied him, carrying letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was robd of the wealth which should supple his treason: When this negotiation was finisched betweene Elve and Soame, and a wold of balyant souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his consorts, to whom they declared the many perills they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as they hardlie escaped with life: after this relation they shewed Bruine their muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isegrims lineage about twelbe hundred sworne to the action, besides the Beares owne kindred.

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the Foxes, the Cats, and the Dassens, all which would be in readinesse upon an hours warning. All this I found out (I praise Heaben) by perfect intelligence: Now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his Cave of treasure: but when he found it open, spoil'd and ransackt, it is not in me to expresse the infinite agony and sorrobo he fell into, that grief conuerting to madnesse, and madnesse to desparation: suddainly he went to the next tree and hang'd himself.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Bruine despatched, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus: These foule traytors Brune and Isegrim, being of the Kings private Counsell, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread upon me poore Reynard and wozke my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my naturall Father. O my dread Lord, what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to lose himselfe to save you? The King and Queene having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Rryards, take him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enimines my haires? shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possest of the good I enjoy? No, that's a madnesse, I will never die guilty of. Then said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth sware Faith and trus Allegiance to his Majestie. The Fox answered: Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royall nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King staying the Queen, said: Madam, will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his naturall quality to lie, steal and deceive? The Queen answered, O my dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for howsoeuer in his prosperity he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: why he sparingly not to accuse his own Father, nay Grimbart his dearest Neophew and kinsman, had he dissembled, he might have

of Reynard the Fox.

habe laid his imputations on other Beasts, and not on these he lobeth most iniuriously. Well Madam (said the King,) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, That if eber againe he offend in the smallest crime whatsoeuer, that not onely himself, but his whole generation I will utterly roote out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, O my dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untrutches in this great presence. Then the King taking a straw from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he or his Father had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetnesse of life required it: yet he fell downe before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the Fox tooke up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to him: O my dread Lord, I beseeche your Majestie to receive this pledge as a surrender unto your Majestie, of all the Treasure that the great King Ermerick was master of, with which I freely infesse you, out of my mere voluntary and free intention. At these words the King received the Straw, and smiling, gave the Fox great thankes for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to thinke of the abuse: from that day forward no mans counsell prebailed with the King as the Foxes. Whiche the Fox saying; said to the King: O my gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the west side of Flanders, there standeth a wood called Hustreloe, neare which runneth a River named Crekenpit, this is a Wildernes so baste and unpassable, that hardly in all the year there commeth either man or woman in the same. In it I have hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majestie and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selfes whom I dare trust in so great designe; and when your Highnesse comes thither, you shall find two Birch trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure, which

The pleasant Hystory

which consisteth of Coine, rich Jewels, and the wealthy
 Crodon which King Emerrick wore. With which Crodone
 Bruine the Wear should have been Crowned, if his trea-
 son had succeeded according to his determination: there shall
 you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which
 when you are possesst, then remember the lobe of your servant
 Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your
 selfe help me to digge for this Treasure, for else I shall never
 find it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cul-
 len, but Crekenpit I never heard of, therefore I fear you
 dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold
 countenance he said: Is your Majestie so doubtfull of my
 faith: nay then I will approove my words by publicke testi-
 mony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare, from
 amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come
 before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance
 which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such
 questions as he should aske him: The Hare answered,
 I will speake truth in all things, though I were sure to die
 for the same. Then the Fox said: Know you not where Cre-
 kenpit standeth? Yes said the Hare, I have known it any
 time this dozen years, it standeth in a wood called Husten-
 loe, upon a bank and bride woldernesse, where I have endured
 much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there
 where Father Simony the Frier made false Coine, with
 which he supported himself and his fellows. Yet that was
 before I and Ring the Hound became companions. Well,
 said the Fox, you have spoke sufficiently: go to your place
 againe: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, O my
 soveraign Lord the King, what say you now to my relation,
 am I worthy your belief or no: the King said, Yes Reynard,
 and I beseech thee excuse my Jealousies, it was my ignorance
 which did thee evill: therefore forthwith make preparation
 that we may go to this pit where the Treasure lieth. The
 Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would
 faine go with you: If it were so that I might go without
 your dishonour, which I cannot do; Fox you shall under-
 stand

of Reynard the Fox.

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staad, (though it be my disgrace) that when Isegrim the Wolfe in the debils name, would needs grow religious and turne a Monke : that then the permission of meate which was for sir Mabbs, was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pitifully unto me, that I commiserating his case (being my kinsman) gabe him counsaile to runne away, which he did : Whereupon I stand accursed, and by communi- cated under the Popes sentence : and am determined to mor- robo assone as the Sunne riseth, to take my waie towards Rome to bee absolved, and from Rome I intend to crosse the Seas to the Haly-land, and will never returne againe to my native Countrie, till I have done so much good, and satisfied for my sinnes, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highness person. The King hearing this, said: Since you stand accursed in the censures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Ky- ward the Hare, and somes other with me to Crekenpit: and only command you Reynard, as you respect my labour, to cleare your selfe of his helynesse curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is the onely reason of my going to Rome, neither will I rest night nor day, till I have gotten a full absolution : the course you take is good (said the King) goe on and prosper in your intent and purpose.

CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the Kings Commandement.

As soone as this conference was ended, the royall King mounted upon an high Throne made in manner of a scaffold, made of faire squared Stone, and then commanded a generall silence amongst all his Subjects, and that everis one should take his place according to his Birth, or dignity in Office, onelie the Fox was placed between the King and the Queene. Then said the King ; Hearre all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferiour qualitie : This Reynard one of the chiefe and supreme Officers of my

The pleasant History

beuheld, whose offences had brought him to the least reck-
ing his life, of as being in the hands of the Law and Justice;



bath this daie in requitall of these Injuries, done that Noble
and worthy service to the State, that both my selfe and my
Queene, stand bound to render him our best grace and faveur.

There-

of Reynard the Fox.

Therefore know, that for divers things best known unto
our selbes, we habe freely giben pardon to all his offences,
and restored back to him whatsover to us was confiscate: therefor
e henceforth I command all of you, upon the paine
and hazard of your dearest lives, that you faile not from this
day forward to doe all reverence and honour not onelie to
Reynard himself, but also to his wife and Children: wher-
ever or wheresoever you shall meet them, whether by night
or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to
trouble mine ears with any more complaints of him: for his
wickednesse he bath cast behind him, and will no more be
guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to mor-
row verie early he taketh his journey towards Rome, where
from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence
for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the Holy land.
This spach when Tisellin the Raben heard, he fled to Bru-
ine, Isegrim and Tibert, and said: Wretched creatures how
are your f^rumas changed: or how can you endure to hear
these tidings? who Reynard is now a Courtier, a Coun-
sellour, nay the prime Favorite: his offences are forgibben, and
you are all betrayed, and sold unto bondage. Isegrim answer-
ed, It is impossible Tiselli, nor can such a thing be suffered:
do not deceive your selbes (said the Raben) for it is as true
as that now I speak it. Then went the Wolfe and the
Bear to the King: but the Cat staid and was so soye af-
frighted with the newes, that to purchase the Foxes friend-
ship againe, she would not onely habe forgibben the evils re-
ceived, but willingly habe run into a second hazard. But
now Isegrim with great Majestie and pride tracinge over the
Fields, came before the King and Quene: and with most
bitter and cruell w^rds, enbied against the Fox in such a
passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infi-
nitely moued with displeasure, caused the Wolfe and the
Bear to be presently arrested upon high Treason: Whiche
suddenly was done with all bishence and fur, and they were
bound hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move
from the place wher they were couched. Now when the Fox

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The M^rall.

By this ho-
nour done to
the Fox, you
may see, that
when policy
and wisdone
get the upper
hand of their
enemies, it ne-
ver resteth till
it make h
known to the
world the
greatnesse of
their Con-
quest, both to
expresse their
ambition, as
also to extenu-
ate their
crimes, and
keep their foes
in aw with the
goodly shooes
of new grace
and favour.
By the com-
plaint of the
Raven, is shew-
ed the jealousy
and fear of
the weaker
sort and how
in their trou-
bles they flie
to the Heads
of faction, and
firre them
(with their
own safeties)
to prevent e-
vils.

The pleasant History

By the Wolfe
and the Beares
committment,
is shewed, that
when men
complaine in
unseasonable
times, they
ever runne
themselves in
to most appa-
rantly and dan-
gerous mis-
chiefs.

had thus intyralled and intangled them, he so laboured with
the Durane, that he got leabe to have so much of the Beares
skinne, as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:



which granted: he wanted nothing but a strong paire of
shoes to defend his feet from the stones in his trabaile:
Where-

of Reynard the Fox.

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Wherupon he said to the Duten, Madam, I am your Pilgrim, and if it would please your Majestie but to take it into your consideration, you shall find that Sir Isegrim hath a paire of excellent long lasting ones, which would you bouchsafe to bestow upon me, I should pray for your Majesties soule in all my trabaile, above my charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt dame Arsewind, hath other two Shoes, which would your Majestie bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldome abroad. The Duten replied, Reynard, I cannot perceive how you can want such shoes, for your journey is full of labour and difficultie, both in respect of the stony mountaines and the grabelly waies, and therfore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nearely) from each of them a paire of Shoes to accomplish and finish your journey.

CHAP. 14.

How Isegrim and his wife Arsewind had their shooes pluckt off, for Reynard ro were to Ryme.

After the Fox had made this petition, Isegrim was taken, and his Shoes pulled off in most cruell and violent manner, so that all the veines and sinetoes lay naked, nor durst the poore massacred Wolfe either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormentted, then dame Arsewinde his wife was used on the same manner on her hinder feet, as her husband was on his fore feet: which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornfull manner: Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you that takes all this paines to day sake? questionlesse you shall be a sharter in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from Beyond the Seas by the help of your Shoes. Then Arsewind (though speech were troublesome to her) said, Well Sir Reynard, you have your wil accomplisht, yet heauen (I hope) will requite the misdoer. This she said, but her husband and the Wolfe lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there

The pleasant History

The Morall.

In the spoyling the Beare of her skinne, and the Wolfe of his shooes, is shewed, both the malice of a revengefull enemy, that never thinks his Foe weakened enough, till he be utterly ruined, as also the indiscretion of a over-angry nature that can not stay to give his wrōgs advantage, but惹s his spleene before he can either get beliefe or reme ly.

By the ceremonies done to the Fox, & the curiositie of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifference, (where authority hath power to command) for any man to stand upon nice and puritanical terms with his superiors, doth not

also he had not escap't some extreme punishment. The next morning very early, Reynard cau'ing his shooes to be well oyled, put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, as they were to the Woole, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My dread Lord and Lady, your poore subiect boweth before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to bechsafe to deliuer me my male and my stalle blest, according to the custome due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ramme, and commanded him to say solemn Mass before the Fox, and to deliuer him his stalle and his male: but the Ramme refused saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said, what of that, h'ad not our Doctors told us, that if a man committ all the sinnes in the world, yet if he repente himself, be shrieben, do penance, and walke as the Priest shall instruct him, that all is clearly for-giben him: and ha'nt Reynard done all this? then auawred Bellin, Sir, I am loth to meddle herein, yet if your Majestie will beare me harmlesse against the Bihop of Prendelor (my ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon Loswind, and Rapiamus h's Officiall, I will effect your commandement. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorne to be behalding unto you: but when the Ram saw the King offended, he stroke for ffar, and ranne presently to the Altar; and sung Mass, and used many ceremonies ober the Fox, who gaue little respect unto them, moze then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Oyzions, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male: which was made of the Beare's skinne, and put into his right foot a Palmers stalle: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart and fained to weep (thouḡ sorro wo and he were neber farther asunder) onely his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Beare and the Wolfe were: yet he took his leabe of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart (for knowing his own knaberie, he was very desirous to be gone)

of Reynard the Fox.

gone.) The King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part ^{reprehension} thus suddenlie: then said the Fox, There is no remedie my ^{but punishment.} Lord, nor ought I be slow in so debeat an action. Then the King tooke leabe, and commandied all that were about him (but the Beare and the Wolfe) to attend Reynard some part of his jauruie. Dhee that had seene how gallant and per^{so}nable Reynard was, and how well his stasse and his male became him: as also how fit his Shoes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: yet the Fox carried himselfe outwardlie very demurely, how eber inwardlie hee smilid at the abuses hee had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, now his atendants, and the King, whom hee had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be aiding to all his baine deffres, did accompanie him also as if he had been his companion. But the Fox being now onward his waie, hee said to the King, I beseech your Ma- jesticie trouble your selfe no further, but in respect of your ease, and the danger might happen to your royall person, for you have arrested two capitall Traitors, who if in your absence they should get at libertie, the danger were infinite, which might issue thereare. And this said, hee stod upon his hinder feete, and entreated the beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon, that they would praze for him: which done, hee departed from the King with an ex- ding sad and heable countenance: Then turning to Kyward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling counte- nance: my best friends, shall wee part thus storne? I know your lobes will not leade me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your conuersations are agreeable to my nature: for you are mild, lobing and courteous, religious, and full o^f wise counsaille, even such as my selfe was when I was first a Recluse: if you habe a few greene leaves, or a little grasse, you are well content, as with all the bread and flesh in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like flattering words he inticed these two, that they were content to goe along with him.

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By the Foxes Hypocrise, is seene the dis- simulation of worldly men, and how to es- feft their mis- chiefe to the full height, they ever put on a most false cloake of Re- ligion.

By the gene- ral atten- dance of all the Beasts on the Fox, is shewed, the flattery and baseneise of many people that never looke how good a man is, but how great, and that favour and countenance, is ever enough to command at their servi- ces.

CHAP.

The pleasant History

C H A P. 15.

How Kyward the Haire was slaine by Reynard the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King.

THIS marched these three together, and when Reynard was come to the gates of his owne house, he said to Bellin his sonne, I will intreate you to staine here without a little, whilist I and Kyward goo in, for I would have him a witness to some private passages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into Malepar-dus, where they found dame Ermelin lying on the ground with her younglings about her, who had sorowed exceedingly for the loss and danger of her husband: but when she saw his returne, her joy was ten times doubled: But beholding his male, his staffe and his shooes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Deare husband, how haue you fared? to whom he delibered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger as reresse, and that now he was to goe a pilgrimage, having left Brdine and Iegrim two pledges for him till his returme: as for Kyward, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to doe with him what they pleased, affirming, that Kyward was the first that had complained of him, for which questione hee vowed to be sharplie revenged. When Kyward heard these words, hee was much apaled, and would faine haue fled awaie, but hee could not: for the Fox had got betweene him and the Gate: who presently ceased the Hare by the necke: at whiche the Hare cried unto Bellin for helpe, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: whiche done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinking the blood to the Kings health: but Ermelin groaning suspitious, said, I feare, Reynard, you mock me: as you love me, tell me how you sped at the Court. Then he told her how extreamelie he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure that was not, in so much, that he knew when it shoud come to be revealed,

the

of Reynard the Fox.

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the King would seeke all the meanes he could to destroy him. And therefore Wifre said he, there is no remeoir but we must reale from hence, into some other Forrest where we may

The Morall.

By the killing of the Hare, is shewed that whereas men out of the lightnesse and easinesse of their beliefe, do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries or newreconciled Friends, that evermoresome inevitable mischierf deth still follow such folly and improvidence. Also how easilly a malicious man can finde cause of quarrell with such as are too weak for them or as eye-sores stand between them and the end of their purposes, or are able to reveale and hinder their projects.

By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the Letters



like in better safetey, an in a place moze fruitfull. where we shall have all the delicate meates that can be wight for, cleare

I

springs

The pleasant History

which he saw sprynge, fresh rivers, cale shades, and wholesome ayre : here
 not, is discou-
 red, that ever
 such vain glo-
 rious pick pur-
 ses of other
 qualities, doe
 ever carry
 their owne
 shames and
 disreputations,
 and when
 they looke for
 most honour
 or renowne,
 they reape no-
 thing but mi-
 sery, scorne
 and disgraces.

I know is na abiding : and now I have gotten my thumbe
 out of the Kings mouth. I will no more come within the dan-
 ger of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no fancy to
 go from hence, to a place whers I am utterly unacquainted :
 here we possest all that we desire, and you are a Lord over
 all that lies about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard to
 change a certaine good for a boyled contentment : besides, we
 are here safe enough. and should the King besiege us never
 so straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes,
 that he can neither cut from us relife or libertie. O what
 reason have we then to flee beyond Seas : but you have sworne
 it, that's my vexation. Say Dame (said the Fox) grieve
 not at that : the more forsworne, the lese forsworne : Besides
 I have heard some saie, that a forc't Dath is no Dath, nor do
 I make account that this Pilgrimage will availe mee a rush.
 And therfore I am resolued, and will not start from hence,
 but follow thy counsaille : If the King doe hunt after mee, I
 will guard my selfe as well as I am able, and against his
 power applie my politic : so that being forced to open my
 lache, let him not blame mee if he catch herte by his owne
 furie.

All this while stood Bellin the Ramme at the Gate, and
 grew exceeding angrie both against the Fox and the Hare, that
 they made him waite so long : and therfore called out a-
 loude, for Reynard to come awaies : Which when Reynard
 heard, he went forth and said softlie to the Ram. Good Bellin
 be not offended : for Kyward is in earnest conference with his
 dearest Aunt, and entreated me to saie unto you, that if you
 would please to walke before, hee would spedilie overtake
 you, for he is light of foote, and spedier then you : nor will his
 Aunt part with him thus suddenlie, for she and her Children
 are much perplext at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me
 thought I heard Kyward cry for helpe. Hoo, cry for helpe ?
 can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my house ? farre bee
 such a thought from you : but I will tell you the reason : As
 soon as we were e me into my house, and that Ermelin my

Wife.

of Reynard the Fox.

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Wife understand of my Pilgrimage, presentlie she fell downe in a swoone: which when Kyward saw, hee cryed aloude, O Bellin come helpe my Aunt, hee dyes, she dyes: Then said the Ram, In sadness I mistook the crie, and thought the Hare had beeene in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the Fox, but before he shold have any injurie in my house. I would leabe to respect either wife or Children. But letting this discourse passe, you remember Bellin, that yesterdag the King and his Counsaile commanded me, that before I deparred from the Land, I shold send unto him two Letters, which I have made readie, and will intreate you my dearest Cousin to beare them to his Majestie. The Ram answered, I would willingly doe you the serbice, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprobided of any thing to carrie them in. The Fox said, that is probided for you alreadie, for you shall have my male which you may convenientlie hang about your neke: I know they will be thankfullie received of his Majestie, for they containe matter of great importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox returned into his house, and tooke the male, and put therem the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him a great charge not to looke therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings labour: and that hee might further indeare himselfe with his Majestie, hee bid the Ram take upon him the inditing of the Letters, which will bee so plesing to the King, that questionlesse he will powre upon you manie labours.

The Ramme was exceeding glad of this advice, and thanked the Fox, saying: That the labours hee did him shold not dye unrequited; and I know it will be much to mine honour when the King shall thinke I am able to indite with so great perfection: for I know there be many in these dyes as ignorant as my selfe, that are risen to high promotion, onely by taking upon them the worsh of other mens Labours: And therefore why may not I runne the same course also? Yet I prate you Reynard further advise me: Is it meete that I take Kyward the Hare along with me? O by no meenes (said the

The pleasant History

For let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not yet part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not yet be revealed. This said, Bellin tooke leave of the Fox and went toward the Court, in whitch Journey he made such speed, that he came thither before none: where he found the King, in his Pallace sitting amongst the Nobility.



of Reynard the Fox.

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The King wondred when he saw the Quenne come in with the male which was made of the Bears skinne, and said: whence commest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that male about you? Bellin answered: My dread Lord, I attend the roble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majestie of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly Indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highnesse both convenient and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages: that he might read them publikely, so he and Tibert the Cat tooke the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the Head of Kyward the Hare: at which being amazed they said: Woe and alas, what Letters call you these? Believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of poore murthered Kyward. At which the King seeing (he said) Alas, how unfortunate was I to believe the trayterous Fox? And with that being opprest with anger, grieve and shame: he held downe his head for a good space, and so did the Quen also: but in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadfull noise, that all the beastes of the Forrest did tremble to hear it. Then spake Sir Firapell the Libard, who was the Kings nearest kinsman, and said: Why is your Majestie thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serue for the Quenes funerall, I doe beseeche you alwaies your anguish: are not you King and master of this Country, and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is a mischiefe beyond indurance, I am betrayed by a base villaine, and a traytor, and habs been made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel, I mean the stout Bruine, and baltent Negrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour, yet in my self I found an unwillingnesse thereto, onely my Quenes pitty working upon the easinesse.

The pleasant History



siness of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will
evermore grieve me. Whyp (said the Libard) what of all this?
you are abode your injuries, and with one smite can salbe the
greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have power
to recompence, and what reputation is it that reward will not
satyder? as for the Beare which lost his skinne, the Wolfe
and his wife dams Arlewind, that lost their Shooes, you may
in recompence (since Bellin hath confess himself a party in this
soule murther) bestow him and his substance on the parties
grieved: as for Reynard, he will go and besiege his Castle:
and having arrested his person, hang him up by the law of
Armes without furher triall.

CHAP. 16.

Aow Bellin the Ramme, and his lineage, were given to the
Beare and the Wolfe.

To this motion of the Libard the King consented, so that
Firapell soothwith went to the prison, where the Beare
and

of Reynard the Fox.

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and the Wolfe were, and said: my Lords, I bring a free and generall pardon from the King, with his love, and a recognition of your injuries: which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princeely bountie, he is pleased to bestow upon you both Bellin the Ram and his whole generation, with what-

The pleasant History

whatsoeuer they possessed, and is now confiscate to his Majestie, to hold from henceforth to you and yours till doomes day: with full commission to slay, kill, and debase them wheresoever you finde them. Be it in Woods, Fields, or Mountaines. And also the King granted unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you finde him or any of his linage or generation: and of this great privilege you shall receive letters Patents at your pleasure, with onely a reservation of your fealty and homage to bee due to his Majestie which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your honours. Thus was the peace made betweene the King and these nobles by the Lybard, and Bellin the Ramme was for huch slaine b^r them; and all these Priviledges dorthe the Wolfe hold to this houre, nor could ever any reconciliation be made betweene them and the Rams kindred. When this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof, proclaimed a feast to be held for twelue daies after, which was done with all solennitie.

To this feast came all manner of wilde Beasts, for it was uniuersally knowne through the whole Kingdome, nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined, as musick, dancing, masking, and all Princely recreations: as for seuerall meates, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a store-house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered Fowle, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majestie, and no one missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast had thus continued in all pompe the space of eight daies: about high noon came Laprell the Coney before the King and Queene, as they sat at dinner, and with a hearie and lamentable voice, said: My gracious and great Lord, have pitty upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murther, which Reynard the Fox woulde yesterdaie have committed against me: as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, where standing without his gates, attired like a Pilgrime, I supposing to passe peaceably by him towards my rest: he crost my way, saying his Beads so devoutly, that I saluted

of Reynard the Fox.

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saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right fist, and gave me such a blow on the neck between the



head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been stricken from my bodie: but yet so much memorie was left me that I leapt from his claves, though most grievously hurt and wounded.

The Morall.
By the giving of Bellin unto his enemies, is shewed that when simple men give themselves to pride & vain-g'ory, they are overtaken by their enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction.

By the complaint of the Cony, is shewed that when the weak will believe the faire shewes of the strong and cruell, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they doe by some hidden providēce, yet it is not without some maime either to their bodies or reputations. The complaint of the Rooke, shewes that when the evill man sleepeth or seemeth to have least power or in-

The pleasant History

rent of wick-
esse, that
then his
thoughts are
most busid &
laborious to
destroy the in-
no ent, and the
mischife is
more violent,
then when he
lyerth most ap-
parant and
publisheth
himselfe an o-
pen enemy;
wherefore the
simple and in-
nocent ought
at such times
to be most
fearfull, and
to keepe far-
thest out of his
danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extreamelie, because I esca-
ped onely of one of my eares he utterlie desribed me, which I
beseech your Majestie in your roiall nature to pitty, and that
this bloudie murherer my not lbe thus to affict your poore
Subjects. Now whilste the Cney w^t is thus speaking to the
King, there came flying i^t to the Court Corb int the Roode,
who comming b^rfore the King, said: Great King, I beseech
you boughsafe to haue me, and pitty the complaint I shall ut-
ter: so it is, that I went this morning with Sharbeake my
wife to recreate our selbes on the Heath, and there was found
Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcase, his
eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth, like a deade
Hound, so that we wondering at his strange plignt, began to
exe and touch his bodie, but found no life therein at all: then
went my wife (poore carefull soule) and laid her head to his
mouth, to see if he drew any breath: whiche she h^d no sooner
done, but the foule murherer awaiting his time, snatched her
head into his mouth, and bite it quite off. At that I thrizked
out and cryed: Woe is me, what misfortunes are the^e? but
presently the murherer start up, and reaht at me with such a
bloody intent, that with much tremblyng and angui^h I was
faine to flie up to a tree, wherere I saw him debour up my wife
in such terrible manner, that the very thoughtis death to me
in the repeating.

This massacre finisched, the murherer departed, and I
went to the place, and gathered the searchers of my lost wife,
whiche here I humbly present before your Majestie, beseeching
you to doe me justice, and in such manner to rebenge mine in-
jurie, that the world may speake fame of your great excellency,
for thus to suffer your Lawes, Protections, and safe Conducts
to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scan-
dall to your Croune and Dignitie, that your very neighbours
and Colleagues will note and point at your remissenesse:
besides the sufferance of the evill will make you guiltie of the
trespasses which arise from such sufferance: But to your
great considerations I leave it: since I know your Majesties
own goodnesse will make you carefull of your honur & royalty.

CHAP.

of Reynard the Fox.

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CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took coun-
sell for revenge, and how Reynard was fore-
warned by Grimbard the Brock.

The royall King was much moed with anger, when he heard these Complaints both of the Coney and the Rooke, so that his eies darting out fire, amongst the beames of Majestie, his countenance was dreadfull and cruell to looke on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he said: By my Crowne and the truch I ebermore reverence and owe unto the Queen my wif, I will so rebenge these outrages committed against my Crown and Dignitie, that godnes shall adooze me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falsehood and flatterie shall no more get beliefe in me.

Is this his journey to Rome and to the Holy-land? are these the fruits of his male, his staffe, and other ornaments becoming a devout Pilgrim: Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my helpe, but the persuas-
sion of my Queen, nor am I the first that hath beene deceibed by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their inticements. And this said: he commanded all that were about him, both Noble, worthy and euerie discret spirit to as-
sist him with their Counsell, and to laie him doben such sure ground for his rebenge, that his honour and Royaltie might be a new rebibed, and every offender made to knwo and feele the heabie price for their most unjust actions.

Iiegrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Weare, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but now to gaine their full revenge against Reynard: yet still they kept silence and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moed with their dumbnesse: and noting that none durst frælie deliver their opinions: He began to bende his forehead: but the Queene after solemn reverence said to the King: Mon Sire, pour Dieu croyez mie toutes choses

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éhoſes qu' n vous dira, & ne jurez point legerement. Sir, it
it not the part of any excellent wiſdome to believe or protest
in any thing till the matter be made most apparent and preg-
nant to his knowledge: neither ſhould both his ears, be in-
gaged to any complaint, but one eber referred to enter-
taine the deſſeſce of any accuſed: For many times the accuſer
exce deſc

of Reynard the Fox.

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exendeth the accused in injurie. And therefore Audire alteram partem, to hear the other party, is the act of perfect Justice: For my own part howsoeuer I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my perswasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellencie not to procede against him, but by the true form of your Lawes: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoeuer your severite can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firapell the Libard to second her intreatie said: My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not whereto your Majestie can strate from her judgement: Therefore let him take the due triall of your Lawes, and being found guiltie of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your feast be ended, to clear himself, or submit to your mercy: then may your Highnesse procede against him as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

To this speach Isegrim the Wolfe replied, Sir Firapell, for my own part, I thinke not any in this assemblie will dissent from your counsell, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintaine, that howsoeuer Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like trespasses whiche shall be brought against him: yet I have that lodged in my bosome, which shall approue he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, onelie touching the treasure of whiche he hath informed his Majestie to lie at Crekenpit in Hasterlooe, there never came a falser information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself libertie to rob and spoile all that passe by his house as now he doth: but notwithstanding I hold it meet that all things be done as shall seeme good to his Majestie, or you Sir Firapell: Yet this believe, that if he had meant to have appeared, he had been here long since, for he had summons given him by the Kings messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegience, or respect mine honours, that forthwith they make themselves

The anger of the Lyon at the Foxes trespasses, shewes the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good subjects are injured. And the perswasion of the Queen and the Lybard, shewes the true reperance which every Prince should use, when he administrath Justice.

The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolfe, shewes the cunning malice of a subtle foe, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceale the violence of his malice: that so he may gaine a more quiet attentiō and then mixing his calme words with

The pleasant History

bitter promises
and doubtfull
injuries, doth
the uttermost
he can to moy.
so the reputa-
tion of him he
hateh.

The Brockes
going to the
Fox, sheweth
the office of a
true friend,
which both gi-
veth warning
and advise to
them they
love, when
they see them
runne into e-
vill courses.

The Foxes
carelesse
shews the true
nature of a de-
sperate man,
that when hee
hath plunged
himselfe into
the depth of e-
vill, hath no
thing but an
audacious
countenance,
and an impu-
dent shew to
make him
seem innocent
yet evermore
his heart is
supt with the
stinging of his
conscience as
ost as he alone
which is the

readie for the warre: and at the end of sixtides appearre be-
fere me with their Domes, Gunnes, Bumbards, Pikes,
and Halibards: some on horse-backe, some on feste, for I will
besiege Mallepardus tristly, and destroy Reynard and his
generation from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him
turne his back, that I may know him for mine enimis. And
they all cried with one voice, we are readie to attend your
Majestie. When Grimbard the Brocke heard this deternit-
nation he grwo & xceeding sorry (though this sorrow was des-
perate) and stealing from the rest of the companie, bee ranne
with all sped possible to Mallepardus, neither sparing bush
nor byper, pale nor taile: and as he went he said to himselfe.
Alas my deare Uncle Reynard, into what hazards art thou
dratone, having but one stept betwixt thee and thy death, or
at the best thine & everlasting banishment? Well may I grieve
for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art
wise and politike, and a friend to thy friends when they
stand in neede of thy counsell, for with thy sweete language
thou canst enchant all creatures, but all is not booteis.
With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard
unto Mallepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at
the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons
as they came creeping out of their nest to try how they could
learne to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he
said, and said, Welcome my best belovd Nephew, the onelie
hee I esteeme abobe all my kinred: Surely you have runne
exceeding fast, for you sweate wonderfully: what newes
man, how runnes the squares at the Court? said Grimbard
exceeding ill with you, for you have forfeited both your life,
honour and estate. The King is up in armes against you
with horse-men, footmen, and soldiery innumerable: be-
sides, Illegrim and Bruine are now in more favour with his
Majestie, then I am with you, therefore it is high time you
have great care of your selfe, for their enby hath toucht you
to the quicke, they have informed against you, that you are a
thiefe and a murtherer: and to second their informations, La-
prell the Coney, and Corbant the Cooke have made haimens

com-

Of Reynard the Fox.

complaints against you, so that but your shamefull death, I see
no escape of freedome.

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torment of e-
very offender.



Thus (said the Fox) my deare Nephew, if this be the
best, let no sorrow affright you : but let us be chearefull and
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court
would

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to be inserted
in the first page
would shew my death, yet will She exalte above them all; well may they prate and jangle, and tire themselves with their counsels: but without the help of my wit and policie, neither can the Court or Common-wealth have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle and feast. I have here a paire of fat Pigeons for you which are meate of pure and light digestion, I lobe not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood, yet come I say, my wife Ermelin will receite you kindly; but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for She is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into soudaine sicknesse, for women are apt to entertaine grief. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow earlie in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attaine speech with the King, I shall gall some deep enough, onely this I desyre (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend and kinsman ought to do to another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I thanke you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingratefull. Sir (said the Wzoch) be bold of this, that you shall come and make your answer before the Lords frelie, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that labour the Queen and the Libard have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a haire for their woorst malice. And this said, they went into Maledictus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings, who presentlie arose, and received the Wzoch with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children with all courtesie: presentlie the two Pigeons were made ready, and they sipped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desyred: then said the Fox, Nephew how like you my children Rossel and Reinardine? I hope they will do honour to our familie, they are towardlie I assure you, for the one latelie caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Pheasant: they are alioo good Butchers, and can but deceiue the Lambards and the Wzoch: If let you thinke of our woorke

of Reynard the Fox.

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adventure them farre, onely I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Grins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds, they are of the right haire Sephew, and like me, both in countenance and qualitie, they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is great pride unto me.

C H A P. 18.

How the Fox repenting his sinnes, doth make his confession and is absolved by the Brock.

UNCLE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward children, and rejoice because they are of my bloud. I thanke you Sephew, (said the Fox) but I knew your journey hath made you wearie, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented, so they laid them down upon strok litter, and all slept soundlie, but the Fox, whose heart was hearie with sorrow, laie studynge hols he might best excuse himselfe before the King. But as soone as the moaing began to rise from the tops of the Mountaines, he arose and went with Grimbard towards the Court, yet before he went, he tooke leaue of his wife and childdren, and said, I thinke not mine absence long (dear wife and childdren) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stae be more then ordinarie, yet take no affright therat, and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best, and be carefull of your selbes, and keep my Castle close and well guarded: as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what moxes you to take this soddain journey? the last time you were at the Court you know what dangers you escaped, and you hould never to see it againe. Will you now run a second hazard? Danie (said the Fox) the occurants of the world are dibers and uncertaine, and we are subject to the strokes of Fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity that I goe, and I hope my stay shall not be a baxe syne daies

L

at

The pleasant History

at the uttermost, and so embracing his wife and children, he tooke leave and departed: and as they journeyed over the Heath, Reynard said to the Wrock: Rephew, since I was last shrieben, I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may passe with lese trouble through my worst dangers.



of Reynard the Fox.

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Then he proceded and said: It is true Repheus, that I made the Bear receiues a great bound for the Wolfe which I did cut off his skinne, and I caused the Wolfe and his wife to



be stript of his shooes: I appeased the King onely with false-hood, I fained a conspiracie against his Majesties life by the Bear and the Wolfe, when there was never any such determinacion:

The pleasant History

The Mirall.

The Foxes
thriving him-
selfe to the
Brock, thewes
the Art of all
slytembers,
which ever
make devoti-
on their cloak.
By the buying
of the foale
of the Mare is
shewed, that
when proud
men make in-
struments of
wiser then
themselves, &
such as affect
not their qua-
lities, the ser-
vice they do
them is ever
so bring them
to mischief,
Sec. Also when
ambition or
covetousnesse
blinds men,
and makes
them trust
only in their
owne skill and
knowledge,
that then they
are ever so-
daintly over-
taken with one
mischief or
another, and
made a mocke
and scorne to
their foes, and

mination: also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Hul-
sterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I lewo Kyward,
and betraved Bellin, I wounded the Conis, and killed Dame-
Sharpebeake, the ffakes wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shifft
one great deceit which I committed, but I will rebeale it, and
thus it was.

As I went talking with the Wolfe betweene Houchlуст
and Elverding, wee beheld a goodly Way Mare grazing, with a
backe foale by her side, which was exceeding fat and wan-
ten: the Wolfe at that instant was almoſt dead for hunger in
ſomuch that he intreated me to goe to the Mare, and know i:
ſhe woulde ſell her foale: I wen: and demanded the queſtione.
The Mare ſaid, ſhe woulde willin gly ſell it for Monie: I then
asked the priece: and ſhe ſaid, the priece was written in her
hinder ſoote, which if I pleased I might come and read at my
pleaſure, but I that well understood her politike anger,
ſaid, It is truſh that I cannot reade, neither doe I deſire to
bute your foale, onelie I am a messenger from the Wolfe,
who hath a great deſire to have it. Then (ſaid the Mare) let
him come himſelfe, and I will giue him ſatisfaction: Then
went I to the Wolfe, and told him what the Mare ſaid, affi-
ring him that if he pleased, he might have his bellie full of the
foale, prohobed he could read, for the priece was written in
the Mares hinder ſoote. Read (ſaid the Wolfe) what ſhould
aile me; I can, Couſin read byth Latin, French, English,
and Dutch, I have ſtudied in Oxford, and argu'd with many
Doctors, I have heard manie ſtatelie Platies, and ſritten in the
place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Latos,
nor is there that woziting which I cannot diſcipher: So deſi-
ring me to ſtay for him there; away he went to the Mare, and
crabed that he might ſee and read the priece of the foale: to
which the Mare conſented, and lifting up her hinder ſoote, which
was newlie ſhoed with ſtrong iron, and ſeven Sharp nailes
heads, as the Wolfe looکt thereon, ſhe ſmote him ſo just upon
the foze-head, that ſhe threw him ober and ober, and he laie in
a dead wound whilſt a man might have ridden a mile and
better, which done, awaie trotted the Mare with her Colt.

and

of Reynard the Fox.

and left the poore ~~Wolfe~~ bloodie and wounded, in so much that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Isegrim, deare Uncle, how doe you, have you eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkinde, that will give mee no part with you. I went your message honestlie, me thinkes you have out slept your dinner, good Uncle tell me what was written under the Spares foote, was it in Prose or Ryme? indeede I would faine knowe it: I thinke it was a Prick-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your Scholler-ship in all the Arts.

such as led them blind-fold into the evill.

Alas, Reynard, (alas said the ~~Wolfe~~) I pray you forbeare to disaigne me, for I am extremelie wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity mee. The damned Mare on her long legge bath an iron foot, and I tooke the nailes to have brenes Letters, on which I looked, she hit me so full on the head that I thinke my scull is clauen. Deare Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth whiche you tell me? beleefe it, you make me wonder, why I tooke you for one of the greatest Clarkes in this Kingdome: Well, I perceive the old Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarkes are not the wisest men. Worse men sometimes may outstrip them in judgement, and the reason is, you great Schollers studie so much, that perugrow dull, in that you so much ober-labour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the ~~Wolfe~~ within a haire's breadth to destruction. And now faire ~~Rephew~~, I have unladed my Conscience, and delivereded as many of my sins as I can call to my remembrance, wherefore I beseech you let me receive absolution and penance, and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. Then Grimbard said your trespasses are great and hainous, neberthelesse who is dead, must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolve you, upon assurance of your heartie repentance: onelie the contempt you made in sending him Kywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lie heabie upon you. Why (said the Fox) he that will live in the worlde to see this, heare that, and understand the third, must euer conbere with affliction.

Chancery

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Na man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingers.
 I often feels touches of repentance, but reason and our will
 are ever in continuall combat, so that I oft stand still as at
 my wits end and criue out against my sinnes, seeing a detesta-
 tion of them. But presently the world and her vanities ap-
 pear to me againe: and when I find so many stomes and
 rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and
 rich Priests to iuinch me, that I am soorthwith taken a-
 gaine: the world fils me with covetousnesse, and the flesh
 with wantonnesse; so that lossing my good resolutions, I am
 only for Hell and wickednesse. I hear their stying, piping,
 laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth, and I see their
 words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain
 and various: from them I learn my lying, and from Lords
 Courts my flatterie: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests, and
 Clerkes, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell
 great men truth: and he that cannot dissensable, cannot live.
 I have oft heard men speake truth, yet they have still graced it
 with falsehood: for untruths many times happen into dis-
 course unwillingly and without knowledge: yet having a
 handsome garnient, it eber goes so current. (Dear Nephew)
 it is now a fashion to lie, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray, and
 curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in sub-
 jection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that can-
 not boirble falsehood, in truthes kerchiefe, hath neither Art nor
 cunning: but he that can do it, and delide error without
 stammering, he may do wonders; he may wear Scarlet,
 Gray or Purple: he shall gaine both by the Labors spiritu-
 all and temporall, and write himself conquerour in every de-
 signement. There be many that imagine they can lie neathie,
 but their cunning oft falleth them; so that when they thinke
 to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besdes their tren-
 chers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of me-
 thod, marre all their discourses, but he that can give to his
 lie a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without rat-
 tling, and make it as truth appear fair and amiable: That
 is the man and worthe of admiration. Wi^e to speak truth is

no cunning, it never makes the Debill laugh: to lie well and with a grace: to lift up wrong above right: to make mountaines and build Castles in the aire: to make men joggle and look thoro'w their fingers, and all for the hope of gaine onely. This, Nephew, is an Art beyond expession: yet evermore of the end cometh miserie and affliction. I will not denie but sometimes men may jest or lie in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To plaine Placebo, may now and then be born with; for who so speaks alwaies truth, shall find many rubs in his way: men may erre for need and mend it by counsell, since no trespass but hath his mercy: nor any widsome hut at sometime dulleth. Then (said the Wzock) Uncle you are so wise you cannot faile in any purpose, and I would greate inamaured of you, your reasons so far surpassee my understanding, that it is no need of your shrift, for your self may both play the Priest and confessor: you know the wrold in such sort, that it is impossible for any man to hale before you.

With these and such manner of discourses they held on their journie towards the Court: yet the Foxes heart (for all his faire shew) was sad and heabie, yet countenance bedozaied it not: but he past without amazement through all the preesse of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Wzock march'd close by his side, saying, Uncle, be not afraid, but be of good cheare, it is courage of whom Fortune is ever enamoured. Then (said the Fox) Nephew you say true, and your comfort abailes me, and so on he went, casting many disdainfull countenances on those he lik'd not: or as who would say, Here I am: what is it that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin, which he knew lobed him not, as the Otter, the Bever, and divers others which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which lobed him. As soone as he was come in the biew of the King, he fell down humble on his knee, and spake as followeth.

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CHAP. 9.

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King ;
and of the Kings answer.

THAT divine power from whom nothing can be hid, save
my Lord the King, and my Ladie the Quene, and give
them grace to know who hath right and who hath wrong, soz



them

there are many false shewes in the world, and the countenance bewrayeth not the heart : whiche I wylle were openlie rebealed, and that every creatures trespass shod witten in his forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance, or that you (my soveraigne Lord) knew me as necely as my selfe, and how I dispose my selfe earely and late, labouring in your serbice. For which cause onelie malice makes all her complaints against mee, stribing to thrust mee out of your grace and favour. In somuch that out of my anguish I must needs crie shame upon them whiche habe so deadlie belliied me. Neverthelesse I know that you my Lord, and soveraigne Ladie, are so excellent in your judgement, that you will not be carried awaie with falshoods : and therefore I most humblie beseech your Majesties to take into your wisedome all things according to the right of your lawes : for it is justice I looke for, and desire that he whiche is found guilty, may feele the weight of his punishment. For believe it, dread Lord, it shall be knowone before I depart from your Court who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will shew my face with an unblemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence, stood amazed, and wondred when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a statelie countenance said : Reynard, I know you are expert in fallacie, but wrothes are now too weake to relieve you. I beleue this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace : for me I will not chide you much, because I intend you shall live but a short time, the lobe you doe beare me, you habe shewed to the Conie and the Cooke, and your requitall shall be a short life on earth. The auncient saying is, A pot may passe long to the water, but in the end it comes broken home. And your evill habe so long succeeded, that they will now pate you the hazard : at these wrothes Reynard was stricken into a great feare and wylde himselfe farre away, yet he be thought himselfe that now hee must beare thowzow, what fortune soever came : wherupon he said (My soveraigne Lord the King) it is but justice that you beare mee answer my accusations, for were my faults more hainous then enbis can make them, yet equitie

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gibus the accused leabe eber to answer. I have with my
 counselle done you service in former times, and may no lesse
 still: I have never starred from your Majesties, but walked
 by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if
 then mine enemies with their slanders shall prebaile against
 me, blame me not to complaine. Time hath been it was o-
 therwise, and mine may bring it to the old course, for the acti-
 ons of good serbants ought not to be forgotten. I see here
 dibers of my kinred and friends which now make no halfe
 of me, whom I can approue goe about to despise you of the
 best serbant you possesse. Can your Majestie imagine if I
 had beene guiltie in the least imagined crime, that I woulde
 thus voluntarilie have made my appearance even in the
 shrowd of mine enemies? If it had bene to much indiscretion,
 nor woulde the libertie I had, bene so easilie subiected. But
 heauen be thanked I know mine innocencie, and dare con-
 front my wroght enemie. Yet when my kinsman Grimbard first
 brought me the tidings, I must confess I was halfe distract
 with anger, and had I not bene in the censure of his Church,
 I had appear'd ere they had left complaining, but that detaine-
 ned me. And I wandred with sorrow on the heath, till I met
 with my Uncle Martin, the Ape, who farre exceedeth any
 Priest in Pastoral busynesse, for he hath bene Attorney to the
 Bishop of Camerick any time this nine yeres: and seeing
 me in this great agony of heart, hee said, Deare Cousin, why
 are you thus hearie in spirit, and why is your countenance de-
 fected? griefe is easie to carrie when the burthen is dibided a-
 mongst friends: For the nature of a true friend is to behold
 and relieve that, whiche anguish will not suffer the oppressed
 to see or suffer. Then I answered him, You saie true deare
 Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrow is without
 cause laid upon me, and of that I am not guiltie, I am accu-
 sed by those I ranked with my best friends: As namelie the
 Conte, who came yesterdag to my house as I was sayng
 Mattins, saying he was travailing towars the Court, but
 was at that time both hungry and wearie: and therefore reque-
 sted of me some meat, I willingly consented, toke him in and
 gabe

of Reynard the Fox.

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gave him a couple of Marchets and sweet Butter: For it
was on Wednesday, on which day I neber eat flesh. Be-
sides it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitsontide

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The boldnesse
of the Foxes
appearance &
speech shewes
the impudencie
of a desperate
offender, that
having no-
thing but his
own boldnes
to bo'ster out
his cause, still
cries for Ju-
stice and hea-
ring, not so
much to ex-
cuse himselfe
as to accuse o-
thers, and by
digressions &
extravagant
speech to bring
all those into
disgrace
which are a-
ble to testifie
any thing a-
gainst him.
By the tale of
the Apes go-
ing for him to
Rome, and his
threaming the
King, is shew-
ed the igno-
rance and for-
tish blidncesse
of the old
times which
would thrall
Kings under
the Popes
Curies, and
make them



was neare. At which time we must have cleansed and prepa-
red hearts, Et vos estoate parati. Now when he had alonest

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subject to his Commands, though they were never so heathenish & Diabolical.

By his excusing him of the crimes against the Coney and the Rooke, is shewed that whosoever is resolved to do an ill act will never make conscience to tell a loud Lie nor is he ever unprovided thereof, because they are

well refreshed himself, my youngest son Rossel came in and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the nature of Children is ever to be eating and crabing.) But presentlie the Coney smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poore foole fell downe almost in a swound, which when as Reynardine (my eldest son) beheld: he forthwith lept to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and questionlesse had slaine him, had I not come to the rescue. Which done I went and gabe my son correction for his fault. But presentlie Laprell the Coney post to my Lord the King, and informes that (my selfe) sought means to murther him. Thus I am accused without cause and brought in danger, that in truth have best cause to accuse others. But not long after came Corbrant the Rooke flying to my house with a sad noise, and demanding what he alredy: He answered: Alas, my wife is dead, I crabed the cause, he said: A dead Hare lying on the heath full of matthes and Wermine, of which she had eaten so much, that the wormes had gnawone her.

of Reynard the Fox.

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her iþroat in sunder ; and without speaking to me any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and howe re-
ports that I slew his wife, which howe could I by any possible
meanes doe, considering she lieth in the aire, and I walke a-
foot on the ground? Thus (dear Uncle) you see how I am
flandered, but it may be it is for my old sinnes, and there-
fore I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me,
Nephew, you shall go to the Court and disprove their false-
hoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdea-
con hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsell
to the Wolfe to forfaze his holy orders, when he complained
to me of his unablenesse to endure that strict life, and much
fasting : of which Act I now much repent me, since he repa-
reth my lobe with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all
the slanders he can invent, stirreth his Majestie daylie against
me. These things (dear Uncle) bring me to my wits end,
for of necessitie I must goe to Rome for absolution, and in
mine absence, what injurie may happen to my wife and chil-
dren through the malice of these bloody wretches, any one may
guesse : whereas on the other part were I free of the Popes
curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead mine owne
cause, and turn their malice into their own bosome.

Then said the Ape, Cousin cast off your sorrow, for I know
the way to Rome well, and am experienced in these busynesses
for I am called the Bishops Clerke, wherefore I will go thither,
and enter a plea against the Arch deacon, and in spight of his
will, bring you from the Pope a well seal d absolution.

But man, I habe many great friends there, as mine Uncle
Simon and others prentaur, Wayt, Scath, and the like, all
which will stand unto me : besides I will not go unfurnisht
of money, for I knowe praters are best heard with gifts,
and the Law hath no set to walke on but money : a true friend
is tried in necessitie, and you shall find me without dissem-
bling ; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as
soon as you can, for I will presentlie to Rome, and in the
mean time, here I quit you of all your sins and offences,
and only put them upon my selfe : when you come to the

the garment,
which he ever
cloathes his
knavery with.
By the Apes
friends in
Rome, as Si-
mon, or Simarie
Pren tout or
take all, and
Wain Scath or
do m'schief,
is shewed the
wickednes of
these daies in
Rome, & how
by much
meanes a man
migh pur-
chase any
thing he
went about.

By his insinu-
ating with the
Apes wife
(who was the
a great favo-
rite about the
Queene) is
shewed, the
art of a subtil
head, that to
gaine himselfe
a strong party
will not spare
any false in-
vention, for a-
gainst those
great ones
dare not the
inferior open
their lips.

By the slight
of the Conie &
the Rooke, is
shew'd how

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soon the weak
are reftified &
danted with
the threat-
nings of the
strong and
mighty, that it
is better to falle
downe with
wrong, then to
contend with
one that hold-
eth no strong
a party. And
also how by
such advantage
the offender
takes heart &
thereon
groundeth the
strength of his
greater inno-
cence.

By the Lyon
last accusacion
and the Foxes
detraction, is
shewed that
when truth &
authoritie stand
up against the
wicked, that
then flung
with his owne
conscience,
he is able to
abide no lon-
ger, but with
silence and
downe-cast
look, he sheweth
plainely the
guile which
lieth within
him.

Court, you shall finde there Dame Ruknaw my wife, her two
sisters, and my thre Chiloren, with divers others of our fa-
mily. I pray you salutre them from me, and shew them mine
occasions: my wife is exceeding wise, and sheweth that
her distressed friends shall not shrikke when I can helpe them.
I know sheweth that she is faithfull and as behoves her, will never leabe
her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be
more then you can beare, send presently to me to Rome, and
not an enemy that you have, be it King or Queene, or Sub-
ject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently
put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Inter-
diction, that no halfe or sacred duty shall be performed till you
have right and justice restored you.

This assure your selfe I can easilie performe, for his hol-
ness is very old and little regarded, and onely now Cardinal
Pare-gold beareth all the way in the Conclave, as being
young, and rich in many friends: besides, he hath a concu-
sion, of whom he is farre enamoured, that he denies no-
thing sheweth demandeth: his Ladie is my Niece, and will doe
whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go bouldly to the
King, and charge him to doe you Justice, which I know he
will, since he understandeth the Lawes are made for the uss of
all men.

This (my Soberaigne Lord the King) when I heard him
speake I smilid, and with great joy came thither to relate unto
you the truth: therefore if there be any Creature within this
Court, that can charge me with any trespass whatsoever,
and prove it by testimonie as the Lawe requireth, or if other-
wise, he will appose himselfe against me, person to person,
grant me but a daie, and equal lists, and in combatte I will
maintaine my iustice against him, provided he be equall to
me in birth and degrée: this Lawe hath shewen sheweth con-
stant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now
be broken.

When all the assembly of Beatis heard this, they were
dumbe, and amazed to behold his troumese. As for the Conie
and the Cooke, they were so scared they durst not speake, but
privately.

of Reynard the Fox.

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privately stole awaie out of the Court, and being farre on the plaine, they said, This diuellish murtherer hath such Art in his falsehood, that no truthe can looke with better countenance, which onelie our selbes knowe, but have no other witnesse, therefore it is better wee depart, then try combate with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Legrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Beare, were very sad when they sawe these two foriske the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeale the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday wee were laden with complaints, where are they to daie? here is the Fox readie to answer. Then said the Fox, My soveraigne Lord, absence makes empudent accusers, when presence daunts them, as your highnesse may see both by the Coney and the Kooke: O what it is to trust the malice of these Cowards, and how soone they may confound good men: but for me it matters not: nevertheless had they (at your Majesties commandement) but aske me forgivenesse, I had quickly cast all their offences behinde

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behinde mee, for I will never shake hands with charitie, nor
ever hate or complaine of myne enemites : my rebenge I leate
to heaben, and justice to your Majesties. Then said the King,
Reynard, you speake well, if the inward heart be like the out-
ward shew, yet I feare your griefe is not such as you expresse
it : It farre surmounts it, said the Fox : (quoth the King)
for I must charge you with one foule treason, which is,
when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you
had promised me to goe a pilgrimage to the holy Land : when
I had furnisht you with male, mate, and all things fit-
ting that holy Order, then in the greatest despite you sent me
backe in the male by Bellin the Ram, the head of Kyward the
Hare, a thing so notorious to my disgrace and dishonour,
that no treason can be souler. This you have no colour to de-
nie, for Bellin (our Chaplain) at his death revealed the whole
processe, and the same reward whiche he then gained, the same
you shall receive, or else right shall faile me.

At this sentence Reynard gret so soore afraid, that he knew
not what to saie, but looked with a pittifull countenance upon
all his kindred which stood round about him : his colour went
and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand
or foote to helpe him : then the King said, Thou dissembling
and false Traitor, why art thou now dumbe ? But the Fox
being full of anguish, lecht a sigh as if his heart wold have
broke, so that euerie Beast pittied him, save onely the Beare
and the Wolfe, which much rejoiced to behold his sorrow.

CHAP. 20.

How Dame Rukenaw answered for the Fox to the King,
and of the parable she told.

Dame Rukenaw the she Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard
and a great favourite of the Dukes) was much grieved
when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox
that she was in the presence : for she was exceeding wise, and
durst boldly speake : and therefore rising up, (after reverence
done) she said, O my Lord the King, you ought not to be possell
with

of Reynard the Fox.

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with anger, when you sit in judgement, for it becommeth not
nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should
enely accompanie you in that reason: for mine owne part I
think I know the Laws as well as some whiche weare furred
Cownes, for I have read manie, and put some in use: It is
well known, I haue ever in the Popes pallace a bed of straw,

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By the shee Apes answerring for the Fox, is shewed how apt weake women are to be flattered into any beliefe, in which they may either expiese their pitty, or gaine glory. Also it shewes the verisying of the old proverbe, That a Friend in Court, is ever worth a pound in a mans purse:

By the violence of her defence, is shewed, the true nature of a woman that evermore runs into extremes, and so she may do the good or evill she intends, will not keep any thing conceal'd which may any way worke for her purpose: nor yet any thing

when other Beast lay on the bare ground, and I was ever suffered to speak freely without interruption, because I talke not beyond mine experience. It is Senecas opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men, nor may the law waver or halt with any partiality. I do not thinke but if every man which standeth here should call to account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pitry much the state of my pere knyght Reynard, and therefore I wish every one to know himselfe, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that never erred, he is so god that he needeth no amendment. To do anuisse and mend it by counsel, is humours and manly: but to trespass and still gallop forward in iniquitie, is debilish and unsufferable: the holy Wch saith, Be mercitull and judge not least you be judged. And in another place, when the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adulterie, and would have stoned her to death, asking our Lord what he said thereto: he answered: Which of you all is without sinne, let him cast the first stone: but they all departed and left her. In mine opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that find strabos in others eyes, but see not beams in their owne: he that falleth off, and in the end ariseth and commeth to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: Goodnesse never forsaketh her owne servants. This counsel, would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so darke as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well knowne that both his Grandfather and Father eber bearre greater reputation in this Court, then either Bruine or Isegrim, or their whole generations. Alas, when habe their counsels or wisdomes been worthy to habe held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards? why, the passages of the world are to them Prophesies which they understand not, and the Court is turned topsy turvy by his absence: the evill are now adanced, and the good suppressed: but how this can long endure I see not. since the end of their labour is but the ryme of your Majestie.

To this speach the King made this answer: Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you he bath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature: you cannot blamie me to hate.

of Reynard the Fox.

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hate him, since it is onely he which breaketh my lawes and co. unurged
venants : you have heard him accused of thieft, murther and
treason, how can you then defend him ? if you will needs make
him your Saint, then set him upon the Alter and do him woz-
ship, but beleeve it, there is no one good thing in him : and
how eber you imagine, yet search him and you shall finde him
rotten and deformed, there is neither kinlman nor friend (but
your selfe) that will assist him, and therefore your violence
drawes my greater wonder. What companion hath he that
ever thrived by his society, or whom hath he smil'd on, that his
taile hath not after dasht out the eye of ?

To this the she Ape replied : My Lord, I loke him, and
have ever booke him a singular reverence, and I can well re-
count one noble and good action hee did in your presence : for
which then you thanked him, though it be now forgotten : yet
the heaviest thing shold ever weigh the most, and men shold
keepe a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor loke with
violence, since constancy is the greatest ornement of a Prince-
ly nature. We shold not praise the day till the evening come,
nor is it good counsell availlable but to those which meane to
pursue it.

I remember about some two yeares since, there came to
this Court a man and a Serpent, to have judgement in a dub-
full controversie : for the Serpent attempting to goe through
a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was
no waie for him to escape with life : A certane man passing
by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his
helpe, or else he shold perish presently. The man taking pit-
tie of him (said) If thou wilt faithfully promise me, neither
to doe me hurt with thy tooth or taile, or other payson about
thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swoze hee
would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter : so the
man unloosed him and set him free, and they went forth and
travailed together a long season.

At the last the Serpent gret exceeding hungry, and rushing
upon the man offered to kill him : but the man started aside,
and said : What meaneſt thou to doe ? hast thou forgotten

which may
disgrace those
that are of
the contrary
faction, as
may appere
by the tale of
the Man and
the Serpent
in which the
sheweth the
wisdome of
the Fox, and
the folly and
disability of
the Beare, the
Wolf and the
rest of the
Foxes ene-
mies.

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thine oath? the Serpent replied no: but I may fustlie kill thee
Once I am compelled thereto by hunger, which cancelleth all
obligations. Then the man said, if it be so, yet give me leabe to
live till hee may meet with the next passenger which may judge
the controverste.

The Serpent agreed thereto: so they travellled till they met
with

of Reynard the Fox.

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with Tisellin the Raben, and Slinopere his son: to whom relating the difference, the Raben adjudged that the Serpent should eat the man, hoping that he and his sonne should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a rebber and lies by blood, judge this cause? it must not be one but diberg, and such as know both Law and equitie, that must judge this contention: the Raben is neither just, nor indiferent.

Then they travellled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged as against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his venome at the man, but the man leapt away, and said, You do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill me, and the Serpent said, hath not the judgement gone twise on my side? Yes (said the Man) by such as are marcheters themselves, and such as never kept promise: but I appeale unto the Court, let me be tried by your King, and what judgement he gibeth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majestie, and the Wolfs two children came with their father, the one was called Empty-belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devoure the Man: So the full processe of the matter was declared to your Majestie: both the Mans kindnesse and cobenant, the Serpents danger and faith breach, occasioned through the extremitie of hunger. Remember how much your Highnesse was perplext with their difference, and all your Counsell also: For the Mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the Mans godnesse, and the Serpents ingratitude, equallie raised much pittie in your presence. But in the end such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At last, when no helpe could be found, then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to decide the busynesse: then was he the Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majestie it was impossible to give true Judgement according to their relations, but if he might see the Serpent in that manner as he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgement

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therin. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approbating that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snared, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be fastned as before in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majestie, Reynard what judgement will you now



gibe? And he replied, They are now my Lord in the same estate they weare before at their first encounter, they habe neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure if it be your Majesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent upon the same promise and oath made formerlie unto him, he may at his pleasure: But if hee thinke that hunger or other inconveniencie will make him breake his Faith, then may the man goe freely whither hee will, and leabe the Serpent bound and inbaled as hee first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repayed. This judgement

of Reynard the Fox.

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ment your Majestie then applauded for most excellent, and held the wisdom of the Fox unimitable, terming him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear or Wolfe the like? they can howle or scould, steale, robb, and eat fat morsels, make their guts crack with others ruines: and condemne him to death which takes a Chicken: but themselves which kill Kine, Oren and Horses, & they go safe and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen or Aristotle, and their deeds and Statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where vertue is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat, and let the simple go formost, whilst they follow in the retreat with shame and cowardize. These (my Lord) and their like, are the scoules of the corrupt times, yet destroy Townes, Castles, Lands and People: noz care they whose house burneth, so they may warme them by the fire: for it is their profit onely at which their ayme bendeth. But Reynard the Fox and all his Familie have ever made the honour of the King their renstone and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: this hath bene and is his exercise though it now be thanklesse. But time I hope will produce whose merit is greatest: Your Majestie laies his kindred is all fallen from him and start at his Fere une: would any but your Highnesse had affirmed it: you shoule then hebe seen there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your grace may say your pleasure, noz will I in any word oppose you: for to him that durst so do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, noz ars we descended of any base generation: Your Highnes may call to minde the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing ever to lay down their lives and goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard. For mine own part I am one my self, and albe I am the wife of another, yet for him I would not sticke to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have thy full growne Children, whch are knowne valiant and strong in armes, yet for his sake I would aduenture them all to the uttermost perill. Albs I love them with that deare affection that no Wo-

ther

The pleasant History

ther doth exced me: my first sonne is called Bitelus which is most active and nimble, my second, Fulrumpe, the third is a daughter called Hatanet, a girl that can leuke a mans head, and pick out lice more nimly then all the combes in Christendome; and these thre are lobing and dear to one another and with that sh he called them forth unto her, and said:



Come my deare children and stand with your kinsman the noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient familie, and be all petitioners to the King, that he woulde do to Reynard the equitie of his Labors and Kingdome. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrell and the Ferret: for those loue Villaine as well as Reynard, dath. Then came the Otter and Pantecrote his wiffe, whiche I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Weare against the Fox, but now they dare not but obey Dame Rukenaw, for they stood in awe of her wilisme and greatnessse: and with these came above twentie other

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her Beasts for her sake and stood by Reynard. Then came also dame Atron and her two sisters, the Weasel and Hermet the Asse, the Wacke, the water Cat, and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concerne them. Then said the she Lipe: Ho Lord the King, now you may see that my kinsman hath friends which dare abobe him, and we are your true and loyall Subjects, which will neuer falle to do you faithfull serbice. Wherefore let us with one boice beg of your Majestie, that Reynard may have Justice: and if he be not able to disprove his aduersaries, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law passe, for we will not murmur to see his destruction.

Then said the Duene to Rukenaw: Thus much I told unto his Majestie yesterday, but his anger was so great, he shoulde not give eare to me. Also the Lybard said, Sir, you must judge according to witnessesse: for to be governed by will, is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King: It is true you informe me: but the disgrace done to my particular selfe an Rywards death, and other informations so rob'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to looke bathe either to Law or reason: Wherefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquynt him selfe of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his libertie, and the rather for your his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithfull and loyall.

¶ how infinitely glad was the Fox, when he heard these words, and said in himself. Thankes my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me newe blossomes on my dyed Rose, and set me in a faire path to libertie. I have one good foot to dance one: and I doubt not but to use my art of dissimilation so brawely, that this day shall be remembred for my renovation and victory.



CHAP.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 21.

How Reynard excused himself of Kyward's death, and all other imputation, got the King's favour, and made a relation of certaine Jewels.



Acteman.
Bk 9. Cap 5

Then spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said: Alas my soveraigne Lord, what is that you said: Is good Kyward the Hare dead? & where is then Belline the Ramme, or what did he bring to your Majestie at his returne? For it is certaine I delivereded him thre rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: the chiese of them I determined to you my Lord the King, and the other two to my soveraigne Lady the Duselie. But (said the King) I received nothing but the head of peare murthered Kyward, for which I executed the Ramme, having confess the deed to be done by his advice and counsell. Is this truth (said the Fox) then woe is me that ever I was boorne.

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boxne, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in
the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when
you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of
my wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteeme me. Then said
the Shee Ape: Dear Neophew, why should you sorrow thus for
transitory wealth? Let them goe, onely discouer what man-
ner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them againe: If not, the Magician ^{or} Alkarin shall labour his books
and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever
detaines them, shall be curst in all Parishes till he restore
them to the Kings Majestie. O Aunt (said the Fox) doe
not persuade your selfe so, for whosoever hath them, will not
restore them to gaine an Empire, they are so godly and preci-
ous: yet your woordes do something appease me. But whom
shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctitie it selfe
walkes maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh,
with which he guilded his dissimulation, he proceeded on and
said, Harken all you of my stock and lineage, for I will here
discouer what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and
the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed
I intended to his Majestie) was a Ring of fine and pure gold,
and within this Ring next the finger, were engraven Letters
enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing thre Hebrew
names. For my own part I could neither read nor spell
them, but ^{or} Abrion of Trete, the excellent linguist, who
knoweth the Natures of all manner of Hearbs, Beast and
Minerals: So this famous Jew I shewed the King once,
and he assured me, that they were those thre Names whitch
Seth brought out of Paradise when he brought to his Father
Adam the Dyle of mercy. And whosoever shall wear these
thre Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder or
Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over
him: He shall not be tempted to do any sinnes, neither shall
heat or cold euer annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was
encast a most pretious Stone of thre severall colours: The
first like red Chrystill, and glittering like fire, and that with
such brightnesse, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

Fabulous life of
Adam in France

The pleasant History

The Morall.

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels and their severall vertues and riches is shewed the policy of the wicked which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as wealth, health, honour, & vertue: all which be lodged in those Jewels. As for the stories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemies, & such examples are evermore bitter, and worke more in the minds of the hearers, when any vio-



the light thereof was so great as that at none day. The other colour was white and cleare, as if it had been burnished, and the vertue of it was to cure any blemish or soorenesse in the eies, or any part of the body: Also (by stroking the place grieved therewithall) it presently cured all manner of swellings, headache, or any sicknesse whatsoeuer: Whether it were

of Reynard the Fox. T

were venome, weakenesse of stomack, cholick, stone, strong-
gulion, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly appled as afores-
shewed, or inwardly by steeping the stone in water, and then
drinking the same, the last colour was green like grasse mixt
with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed
for truth, that who soever weares this stone about him, could
never be vanquisht by his enemies, and that no creature were he
never so strong and hardie, but he shall yield to him, and he
should be victor day and night in all places: againe, as farre
as one booz it fasting, into what company soever he chanced
(albe his woorst enimies) yet should he be of them infinitely be-
loved, nor should any anger or evill turne be remembred: Also
if one should be naked in a bast wylde field against an hundred
armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him, but he
should come off with honour and victory: onely he must be no-
bly bread, and of no churlish disposition, for the King gabe
no vertue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all
these vertues considered, I thought my self unwoorthye to kee
it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing
you to be the excellenteſt of all creatures living, and one on
whom all our libes depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded
with so rich a Jewell.

This King I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the
same place also I found a Combe and a glasse Mirrore, which
my wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder and
admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Queene, because
of her grace and mercy extended towards me: To speake of the
Combe; it can neuer be too much praised, for it was made of
the bone of a noble beast named Panthera, which liveth between
the greater India & earthly Paradise: he is so goodly and faire
of colour, that there is no beautifull colour under heaben but
some splendor thereof appears in him: also the smell of
him is delicately sweet and wholesome, that the very labour
cureth all infirmities, and for his excellent beauty and rare
odour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he is the
Physitian to all their sicknesses. The Panthera hath one
faire bone broad and thin, which whensoeuer this beast is

lent speech or
invectiōn
whatsoever.
By the repea-
ting of his and
his Fathers
ſervices, is
ſhewed, the
ſubtill inſtru-
ation of offend-
ers, which to
extenuate pre-
ſent crimes
call to mind
their good
deeds past
not ſo much
for the memo-
ry of the good
example, as to
beg a new re-
ward, though
it have been
never ſo often
paid for, for
noble ſpirits
have ever a
tender feeling,
and are ſoone
toucht with
the remem-
brance of any
good turns re-
ceived, for it
is an obligati-
on they ſeldom
cancel.

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slaine, all the vertues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone
which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish



either by fire, water, or other violence: yet it is so light a smal
feather may poise it: the smell of it bath that vertue, that
whoever sent it, taketh delight in no other thing whichever,
and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases
and infirmitiess, and the heart is chearefull and merry eber
after.

This combe is poli'ed like unto fine silber, and the teeth of it
be small and straight, and between the great teeth and the small
in a large field of space, there is graven many an Image, sub-
tilly made, and cunningly inammeled about with fine gold:
the field is checked with Sables and Silber, and enamelled
with Cybuz and Azure: and thereto is contained the story how
Venus, Juno, Pallas strode for the golden Ball in the moun-
taine Ida, and how it was put to Paris, to give it to the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his flocks with

with Oenon on that hill, and assoone as he had received the Wall, Juno promised if he wold bestow it on her, she wold make him the riehest man in the wold. Pallas said, if she myght have it, to make him the wisedest man in the wold, and the most fortunate against his enemies: But then Venus said, what needst thou wealth, wisedome or valour: art thou not Priamus sonne and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the heires of mighty Troy? come give me the Wall, and I wll give thee the goodliest treasure of the wold, and that shall be the fairest Ladie breathing, She whose like no wumme shall ever againe behold, so shal thou be richer then riches, and climbe above all in glorie: that's the wealth newe can praise too much, since beauty is that hevenly Cyrra, which turnes all things in man to joy and contentment.

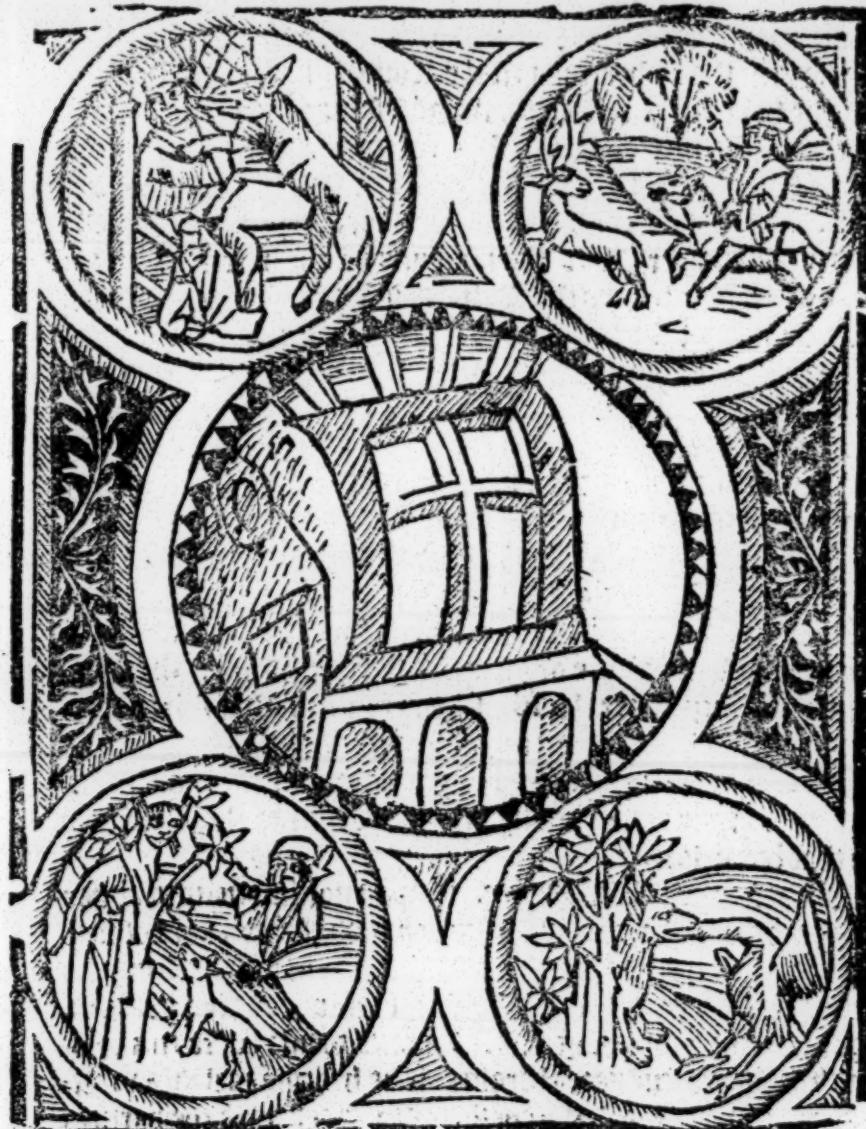
When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Ladie, and Venus said, It is faire Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus, she that is the Jem of the wold, the treasure of beauty, and the glorie of all eies which behold her: then presently Paris gabe her the Wall, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then in another place was figured how he broght Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnite at the marriage, the honour at the triumphs, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glasse-Mirror, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glasse which stood thereon was of such vertue, that men myght se & perceive threin whatsoeuer was done within a mile thereof, whether it wers the actions of men, or beasts, or any thing else the owner wold desire to know, and whosoever but gaze therein, if he had any maladie whatsoeuer, it was presently cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glasse, that wonder not if I shd teares to thinke of the losse: for the wood in whiche this Glasse stood was light and fast, and is called Catine, it will last ever: for wormes, dust, boet nor time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon seled his Temple with the same: the value exceeds far the value of gold, it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King

Crampart

Acton 153 Cap 8

The pleasint History



Kronpordes. — In original low German
— no mention of —
Morcadiges or
Ciamades.

Crampart made a Horse, for the labe of the most beautiful
daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horse was made with
sucd Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he
would run abobe an hundred miles in lesse then an houre,
which was approved by Ciamades the Kings sonne, who not
believing in the Eagle, and being young and lusty, leapt upon
the

of Reynard the Fox.

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the Horse, and presentlie Crampart turning a pin that stod in the brest of the Engine, moved, and went out of the Palace through the windowes, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten myle. Clamares was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the storie said) that he shold never habe returned back againe: but of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and goberne the wooden beast. I leabe to speake for tediousnesse sake, onely the high vertue of all issud from the wad.

Of this wod the Glasse-case was made, being larger then the Glasse by halfe a foot and more square, upon which verge was decyphred divers many strange Histories in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Pellow, Spre and Cyone: and these colours were very curiously brought and interlaid together, and under each History the wrods so engraven and enameled, that any man might read the wholle Storie: beliebe it, the wold never produc'd a thir of greater worth, lustre or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stod a Horse in his naturall glory, fat, faire, and fierie, which braked a statelic Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake the Hart in swiftnesse, at which he infinitely disained, he went to a Heardsman standing by, and told him, if he would help him to take a Hart which he wold shew him, he shold haue all the profit of the conquest, as the hornes, skin, and flesh: Then the Heardsman asked him what meanes he shold use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tyring we take him. The Heardsman tooke his offer, and bestriding the Horse followed the Deare: but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grewe weare, and he bide the Heardsman alight, for he wold rest himselfe awhile. But the Heardsman said: I haue a bridle on thy head, and spures on my hales, therefore know thou art my seruant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seemes best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himselfe into thyaldome, and was taken in his own net, for no creature

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bath a greater abberarie then his owne enbie, and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruines.

In another part was figured an Asse and an Hound, which were both the serbants of a rich man: This man lobed his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dogge to faune and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mough. Now when Bauldwin the Asse saw this, he began to enbie the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foule Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kisse him? I see no profitable serbice he doth him. I labour, bear and drawe, and do more serbice in one wake then the dogge and his whole kinde are able to do in a year, and yet habe I not the tythe of his fabours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillowes: when I that do all am fed onely with Kettles and Thistles: well, I will no longer indure it but I will studie to habe my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Aone the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting up his taile, leapt with his fore-set on his shoulders, and braying and grinning, and put forth his mough to kisse him, and used such rude unmanerly action, that he rub'd all the skin from his Masters eare, and almost oberthrew him: so that the man was forced to crie out help, help, for this Asse will kill me. Then came in his serbants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slaine: which done, he returned to his stall againe, and was an Asse as he was before. In the samie manner, they which do enbie and spight at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more then is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse and was borne to eat Thistles: and where Asses gobern, there, order is never obserued, for they habe no eie either on this side, or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is th' pittie.

In another part was figured the Stozy, hols my Father and Tybert the Cat trabailed together, and had sworn by their

troath,

of Reynard the Fox.

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troath, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time they saw Hunters commynge over the fields with a kennell of Hounds, from whiche they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tybert, whither shall he flie: for the Hunters have espied us: for mine alone part I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what needs many wordes: I have but one wile, and that must help me, and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tre, where he lurk a-mongst the leabes, that neither Huntsman nor Hound could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennell pursued him, hornes and hallows echoing after him: kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tybert saw, he mocked my Father, and said: Now cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles, for if your wit faille you, I feare your whole bodie will perissh. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himselfe so much lighter, yet all availeld not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entred, and escapt the Hounds and Huntsmen. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many living at this time, and though this might well excuse me from lobing the Cat, yet my soule's health and charitie binds me to the contrarie, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred as the remembrance of his injuries which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Micer stands another Historie of the Wolfe, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and debour the bones, which he did with such gradienes, that swallowing them too hastily done, one fell so crosse his throat, that he was almost cheake'd, and hardly escapt with life: whereupon

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hee sought ebery place for the cunningest Surgeons, promising them great gifts to ease his torment: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and besought him with his long neck and bill to helpe him, and he woulde high-ly reward him. The Crane grædy of gaine, put in his head into the Wolfe's thoat, and brought out the Bone. The Wolfe started at the pull, and cried out aloude, thou hurtst me, but I doe forgiue thee, yet doe it not againe I charge thee, for at anothers hands I woulde not beare it: then the Crane said: Sir Isegrim, goe and be fronde, for you are whole, I looke for no more but the reward you promised mee: How (said the Wolfe) what impudence is this? I suffer and have caute to complaine, yet he will bee rewarded he will not so much as thanke me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I sufferred him to drake it out againe without hurting, albeit he s put me to exceeding much paine: I suppose it is I which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungratefull men in these daies, how ever they reward god with evill: for whereas pride is exalted, there honour is ever laid in the durt. There be a world which ought to reward, and to good is those that have advanc'd them, which now complaine, and make those advancements injuries, but the guerdon will follow: for it is the wisedome to comfite, that whosoever will goe about to chafe another, should ever bee sure of his owne clearenesse. All this and a world more then I can well rememb're was curiouse brought on this Glasse: for the leuke-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clarke in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too god and precious for mee to keepe: therefoze I sent them to the King and Queenes Majesties as a present to confort my faith and service: O he that had seene what sorrow my Children made when I sent the Glasse away, woulde have wondred, for by reason of the great berrie therein, they oft gazed in the same, both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparel became them.

Little

of Reynard the Fox.

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Little did I then imagine that good Kyward was so neere his death, for then but himselfe, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no messengers worthy to carry so rich a present. But I will search the whole wozld, but I wll finde the murtherer, for murther cannot bee hid. It may bee hee is in this presence which knowes what is become of Kyward, albe wee doe conceale it; for many devills walke like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled me most,) that my Lord the King shuld saie, that my Father nor my selfe ever did good. But the troubles of affaires may well bræde forgetfullnesse in Kings, otherwise your Majestie might call to minde how when the King your Father libed, and you were a Prince not above two peares old: My Father came from the Schoole at Mountpelior, where he had studied ffe yeres the Art of Phisick, and was expert in all the principles therof, and so famous in those dayes, that hee wore cloathes of Silke and a Golden Girdle. Now when hee was come to the Court, hee found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearely) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walke whether they would, onely hee must ever be neare him. Then said your Father, Reynard I am exceeding sick, and I feele my sicknesse increasing. My Father answered; my Lord, here is an Urinall, make wafer thereon, and as storne as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was admitted (for hee trusted not any equall with him.) Then said my Father: My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must nedes eat the Liquor of a Wolfe of seben yeres old, or else your diseale is incurable.

The Wolfe at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Negrim, you heare how there is nothing which can cure mee but your Liquor. The Wolfe replied: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full ffe yeres old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him bee opened, and when I see the Liquor, I will tell you if it bee medicinable: Then was the Wolfe carried to the Kit-

not meant in
alkmar.

Liver in
Castor

The pleasant History

chin and his Liquor taken out, which the King eat, and was presently cured of his sicknesse. Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on paine of death, from thence-forth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walked by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses which he must ever wear upon his head. But these remembraunces are all lost and gone, and his enenies are now onely advanced, verture is put backe, and Innocence lies in sorrow : for when basenesse and cabotousnesse are made Commanders, they neither know themselves, nor looke at the lownesse from whence they are risen : They have no heards for pity, nor cares for the poore mans cause. Cold is the greate they runne to, and giffes the God which they worship. What great mans Gate, doth not now locke up Covetousnesse : where is not flattery entertained, and what Prince takes hate at his owen praises ? But should greatnesse neede their honest serbice, well might they starbe ere they could gaine that imployment : For like Wolves they had rather see their Masters dye, then lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This my Lord was an accident whiche fell in your youth, and you may well forget it : Yet (without boasting) I my self may saie, I have done to you both honour and serbice, and you haply alſo forget this whiche I shall repeate, whiche I how I doe not to upbraid your Majestie, for you are ever worthy of more then I can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyall Subject, whiche I am ever bound by the lawes of God and nature to performe.

So it was, that on a time Isegrim the Wolfe and I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extreme loude crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your ſelfe came out of a Grotto unto us, and ſaluted us friendly, ſaying : That you and the Duane your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated us to give you part of our getting : Iſegrim then whiſpered in ſuch manner, that none could understand him, but I ſpake out aloud : With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then

of Reynard the Fox.

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it is, it were too mean for your service. But Isegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and tooke halfe of the Swine, givynge you and the Queene but one poore quarter, the other he himself unmannerly deboured, and left me for my share but poore halfe of the Lungs. When your Majestie had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolfe would deliuer none: so that you reacht him ablotw with your foot, whiche toze all the skin from about his ears, so that he ran away crying and howling with all extreemity. But your Majestie commanded him to returne againe speedily and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Majestie, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his eares dropping bloud all the way as he went: In the end we take a Calfe, and when your Majestie saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me I was a swift Huntsman, and could find deynye game quicke, and therefore I was fit to serue in time of necessitie: Then you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gabe one half thereof to your Majestie, the other half to the Queene: As for the Mungrets, Liver, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the head, I gabe it to Isegrim the Wolfe, and took unto my self but the feet onely. Then said your Majestie, wha Reynard, wha taught you to make these courteous dibilitions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which stys ere with the bloudie pate: for he lost his skin for his too much iniquitie, and for his covetousnes hath reapt nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many WOLVES in these daies, that would even eat up their best friends and kynred: Nay if they had powre, even your Majestie also, for they make no respect either of friend or enemie. But woe to that Common-wealth wherē such have the upper hand and governement.

My gracieus Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majestie, which were it not for tediousnes sake I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyaltie I hope will

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Mungrets. 94

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one day againe recall them. I have sene the day when no mat-
ter was fynched in the Court without my aduise and censure,
though now that Judgement is not so reputed: Yet it may be,
the same reputation may spring up againe, and be belived as
firmer as before, as long as it swerdes not from Justice
which is the onely thin I latme at. For if any one can charge
me otherwise and probe it by witnesse, here I stand to indure
the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice
onely slander me without witnesse, I crabe the combate ac-
cording to the Law and instance of the Court. Then said the
King, Reynard you say well, now know I any thing more of
Kywards death then the bringing of his head unto me by
Bellin the Ramme, therefore of it I here acquit you. O my dear
Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thanke you: yet is his deaþ
so grievous unto me I cannot let it passe so easilie: I remem-
ber my heart was heabie at his departure, and I was readie
to sinke to the ground, which was a certain preſage of the losſe
which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox, so amazed all
the beholders, that they could not chuse but belieue all that he
uttered, so that ebery one bermon'd his losſe, and pitried his
sorrow. But the King and Durēe were most toucheo with
the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent
search for the finding of them out, for his praises had stricken
them far in love with the Jewels: And because he told them,
he had sent those Jewels unto them (thouḡ they never saw
them) yet they gave him as great thankes, as if they had ban
in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a meanes
they might be retroyed to them againe.

of Reynard the Fox.

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CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Isegrim the Wolfe complained of him againe.

The Fox understood their meauing exceeding well, and though he little meant to performe what they intreated,



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yet hee thanked the King and Queene for the comforte they
gave him in his great extremite, boving not to rest, neither
night nor day, but to search all the corners of the earth till he
had found what was become of those Jewels : also intre-
ting his Majestie, that if they shold be concealed in such pla-
ces, where hee might be withstood by force, so as neither
his prayers nor power might attaine unto them, that then
his Highnesse would assist him both because it was an oc-
cation which concerned him so nearely, as also a thing required
from his Office, being an Act of perfect Justice, to pu-
nish theft, and murther, both which were contained in this
action.

Act. i. sc. 1.
Then the King assured him, that so soone as it shold be
knowne where they were, no helpe nor assistance shuld bee
wanting. The Fox gabe the King humble thankes, for
nowe he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he ex-
pected, and by his fasse tale and flattery, had so fastned the King
unto him, that nowe he might goe safly whither hee pleased,
and none shold dare to complaine upon him: onely Ilegrim
the wolle stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not a-
ble to containe his anger any longer, hee said: O my Lord the
King, is it possible your Majestie shold be so much childish
or weake of beliefe, as to fise your trust upon the falsehood of
this ever-deceiving merchant, which hath nothing but sha-
dowes and Chymeraes wherewith to enchant you? O be not
so easily seduced, he is a wretch all covered and besmeared
with murther and treason, and even to your owne face hath
made a scoffe of your Majestie. For my owne part I am glad
he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a
peale of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent shall
not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling and fasse
Traitor ne long since did betray my wife most shamefully :
for it happened upon a winters day, that they two travellled
together thowzow a very great water, and hee persuaded my
wife, that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish
with her taile, by letting it hang angle wise in the water a
good

of Reynard the Fox.

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God while, whereunto he said, there would so much fish intently cleave, that halfe a dozen of them should not be able to



deboure it. The silly foole my wise (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before she came to the water, and comming into the

The pleasant History

depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her taile down: still in the water, expecting when there the fish would cleaue to : but the weather being sharp and frostie) she stood there so long, that her taile was frozen hard to the Ice, so that all the force she had was not able to pull him out : but when this lustfull villain beheld that, he presentlie leapt upon her and rabished her, in such brasty and shamefull manner, that no modest eare is able to hear the odiousnesse of the action. My poore wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shrieke, crie, and fad upon the brine of her owne teares, but all to no purpose, the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no inyudence can make him denie for I came and tooke him in the action. O how much Jealousie, griefe, and furie assaill'd me at that instant, I was eben distract to behold them: and cried Reynard, villaire what art thou doing : but he seeing me so neare approaching, presentlie leapt from her and ran his way. So I went unto her with much sorrow and heabiness, having a woold of labour ere I could break the Ice about her: and in dispite of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leabe a piece of her taile behind her: and indeed we both hardlie escaped with our liues. For by reason of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, that the people of the next village rose up, and came with staves and bils, with flaires, and pitchforkes, and the wives with their distabes, and so fiercelie assualted us : crying, Kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I was never in so desperate a taking. One stabe amongst the rest, which was strong and swifte of foote, burt us soze with a Pike-staife: and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of bromes and brambles, where we hid us from the furie of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you habe heard how this Traitor and Murtherer hath us'd us, and against the same we crabe the right of your Law and Justice.

Alkmar Bk 4.2.2. But Reynard answered and said, if this were true, I confesse it wold touch me nere in honour and reputation: but God forbed that ever such a slander should be probed against me :

of Reynard the Fox.

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me: I confess I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water and never touch the mire: but her greedynesse so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction, and so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen by reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish then would have satisfied twentie reasonable appetites: but it is commonly seen, that who all would have, all foregoe: for covetousnesse seldome bringeth any thing well home: yet when I saw her so loth they are, fastned in the Ice, I used all my best endeavours to loosen her, that any of and so indeed was heaving and shoving about her, but to little purpose, for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

The Moral.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Iegrim, and saying to gaine rengement, they care not what indignity they do to themselves, as dorh appeare by the Wolfs slandering of his own wife. By the rising of the Towne Wolf and his wife is shewed that one mischiefe selome cometh to ill folks, but another sily followes it at the heeles. By the Foxes excuse is shewed, how policy hath ever an evasion or a cloke for any evil it doth & rius

me so busse about her, Churle-like he most vilelie slaudered me, like a profuse Wytald, which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but believe it my gracious Lord, all was false, and his wife vertuous, for any thing within my knowledge: whence I am perswaded, that surely his eies dazled, for indeed he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatened much rebengement against me, so that more to eschew his blasphemie then furie, I went my way, and he came, and with as great adoe and as much heave and shoke he helpt her out: of the Towne which done, (they then almost starved with could) ran and up against the scop up and down the fields to get them heat: and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be deposed, for I would not be the father of any falsehood before your Ma- jestie, to be Master of many milions: howeber my fortunes go, I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath euer bene the Enigne of all my Ancestors: and if there be any scripture or doubt made of mine assertion, I aske but eight daies li- bertie, that I may conferre with my learned Councell, and I will so approue all my words by the oath and testimonie of good and sufficient witnessse, that your Majestie and your ho- neurable Councell shall accord to the justnesse of my p[ro]te- station. As for the Wolfe, what habe I to do with him? it is well known alreadie that he is a debauch and almost note-

The pleasant History

can colour eve rious villaine false bath to heaben and to your Majestie, and ry thing with a pretence of goodnesse.

The Foxes contempt of the Wolfe,

shewes that

the strength

of policy con-

sists in disgra-

cing the ad-

verse part, and

calling his

good name in

question, by

ever as one went

downe,

the other went

up. I remember

which meanes how

thou getting into

one of them, fel

it down into the

bottom

he maylose be

of the baell, and

there late it in

great danger and

perill, so that

liefe & credit. I ran

thither with great

haste, and heard

thes sigh and make

great moane, then asking tha

how thou camest

there, and thou

into the well,

answert mee that

thou wert there

a fithing, and hadst so

be made frax from her husband, whose tyrrannie wyl compell her to sate any thing, thowgh never so unjustly.

At this, forth leapt Dame Arsewind, the Wolfe's wife, and said : O Reynard, thou hast so slye a smoth tongue, and so dipt in flattery, that no man is sase from thine enchantment : it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me, remember but how then didst use me at the well with two Buckets, which hanging at one card, and running thorough one pulley, which which meanes how thou getting into one of them, fel it down into the bottom he maylose be of the baell, and there late it in great danger and perill, so that liefe & credit. I ran thither with great haste, and heard thes sigh and make

great moane, then asking tha how thou camest there, and thou



much

of Reynard the Fox.

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much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly shewes the effect of coveteousnesse, which never brings any thing home but losse and danger, and that policy cares not who pines, so hee feele no pain, as appeares by the Foxes tempting her into the Bucker. By their entring into the she Apes Cave is shewed the difference betwixt tempe- rance, & rashnesse, and how farre good words will

much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to breake with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee, and thou saist: Aunt leape into that bucked which hangeth there, and you will bee presently with me; which I no sooner did, but (being much heabier then thy selfe) I fell presently to the bottome of the well, and thou cam'st up to the top: at whiche when I seemed to bee angry, thou said'st, Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world: ever as one comes up: another must goe downe, and so said, you leapt out of the bucket and ranne your way, leaing mee there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger and starved with cold, and ere I could get out from thence, received so many blowes. that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied: Aunt, though the stroakes were painfull unto you, yet I had rather you should habe them then my selfe, for you are stronger and better able to beare them, and at that time of necessity, one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisomie and experiance, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he persuades to, is the aboyding of his owne perill: for nature teacheth us to lobe our owne welfare, and bee which daib otherwise, is croboned with nothing but the tyme of folly.

newes the effect of coveteousnesse, which never brings any thing home but losse and danger, and that policy cares not who pines, so hee feele no paine, as appears by the Foxes tempting her into the Bucker.

By their entering into the
she Apes Cave is shewed the
difference betwixt tempe-
rance, & rash-
nesse, and how
farre good
words will
prevale be-
fore rude and
churlish be-
haviour

Then said dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your Majestie marke how this dissembler can blot with all wrothes, and paint his mischiefs with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betrayed me to my Aunt the shre Ape, wheresoe I escaped. I was faine to leabe one of my mine eares behinde me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides he is apt to catch aduantage from the weaknesse of my language) I desire no better eidence against him. Then said the Fox, willingly I will doe it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therfore I beseech your Majestie lend me your Royall patience.

Upon a certaine time the ~~wolfe~~ here came to me into the
wood, and complained unto me that he was exceeding
hungry,

The pleasant History

grie. (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but he would ever
dissenble: at which presently I tooke pittie of him and said,
I was also as hungrie as he: so away he went and travellled
halfe a day together without finding any thing, then began he
to whine and crie, and said, he was able to goe no further.
When hard by the foot of a Hathorne Tre, we espied a hole
all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rushing
therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired
the Wolfe to go in and looke if any thing were there to profit
us (for something I knew therewas) then said he, Cousin, I
would not crep into the hole for a hundred pounds, till I knew
certainly what was therin, for there may be danger: but if
you please to attempt it, who I know hath both art and wit to
sake your selfe, I will stay here under this Tre till you return:
but I beseech you make hast and let me know what is therein
as soon as you perceiue it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he hath made me per-
fillie beast to go before into the hazard, and he who is great,
strong and mightie, did abide without in peace, wherein I ex-
prest no little friendship, for I would not endure the like dan-
ger for a Kingdome: but to proceede, I entred into the hole,
and found the way darke, long and tedious: in the end I epi-
ed a great light, which came in on the further side of the hole,
by which I saw there lying a great she Ape, with eies glim-
mering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with
long sharp teeth, and on her hands and feet, nailes sharp as an
Elin or Bedkin. I imagined her at first a Garmozin, or Wa-
bbone, or else a Mercat, for a moze dreadfull beast I never be-
held in all my life time, and by her side laye dibers of her chil-
dren, which like her self were sterne and cruell of counte-
nance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped
wide with their mouthes upon me, so that I grew amazed,
and wish't my selfe farre from the harboz. But resolding
with my self, that now I was in, I most quit my selfe as
well as I could, I looked moze constamlie upon her, and me
thought she appeared bigger then Segrim the Wolfe, and the
least of her brattes much larger then my selfe (for a fowler
companie

of Reynard the Fox.

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company I never saw) they were all laid in soule litter, rotten and durtie with their owne pisse, they were all daubed and clogged with their owne dung, which stunke so filthe that I was almost poisoned with the smell. For my swone part I durst not but speake them faire, and therefore I said, Aunt, God gibe you many good daies, and blesse you and my Cou-sins, your pretie childzen: questionlesse they are the fairest of their ages that eber I beheld, and so surpassee in beautie and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most Princelie issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholden to you that doth adde this increase and glorie to your familie. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid downe and delibered, I could not say but must needs come to bisitt you: Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding wel-come: you habe found me like a slut, but I thanke you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judge-ment, held of singular reputation, you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the meanes you worke to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and sci-ence, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world. I habe thought of you eber since they were boye, and resol-ved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with none but the good and the vertuous.

¶ how glad was I, when I heard those words to proceed from her, which kindnesse was onelie, because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no soule kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is onely Dame Rukenaw which standeth yonder: who indeed is the mother of excellent childzen. Yet notwithstanding I answereed this soule monster. Aunt my life and goods are both at your serbice, and what I can do for you night or day shall eber be at your commandement and your childzen. Yet I most heartily wist my selfe farre from them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their stinke. And I pitied Isegrim wha was soze griped with

The pleasant History

hunger all this while ? and offering to take my leabe, and faining that my wife will thiake it long till my returne, Shee said, Deare Cousin, you shall not depart till you habe eaten something, I shall take itumkindly if you offer it, then rose shee up, and carried me into an inner roome, where was great stoe of all kiade of Wenison, beth the red Deare, fallow Deare and Kee : and great stoe of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowles, that I amazed much from whence such stoe of meate shuld come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, shee gabe me aside and halsfe a haunch of a Hinde, to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that shee compelled me : and so taking my leabe and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied where as Isegrim lay gr eaning pittifullly: and I asked him how he fared : he said, Wondrous ill, and so extremely ill, that (deare Nephele) without some meate I die presently : then did I take compassion of him, and gabe him my wifes token which preserved his life, and for which then he gabe me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extremely. But as stome as he had devoured up my Wenison, he said : Reynard, my deare Cousin, what found you in the hole : beleefe it I am now moze hungry then I was before, and this small morsell bath but sharped my teeth to eate moze. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into that hole, and you shall finde stoe of bittuals, for there lyeth my Aunt with her children : if you can flatter and speake her faire you need feare no hard measure, all things will be as you would wifhit.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was bearing sufficient, and that which might habe armed any wile spirit, but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdome. And therfore they loath the policies they know not. But yet bee promised to follow my counsell : so forth he went into that foule stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described : whiche when he saw (being affrighted) hee cried out, Woe and alas, I thinke I am come into hell : did

ever

of Reynard the Fox.

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ever creature set such fearfull goblings? drowne them, for shame drowne them, they are so uglie, they are able to scare the Devil, why they make my haire stand an end with their horrid deformitie. Then (said she) Sir Isegrim, their creation is not my fault, let it suffice, they are my Children, and I am their Mother. Noz ought their be aurie v^e hard labour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs to day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you, both in birth, birtue, and wisdome, and he accounted them faire and lobely, for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he reply'd (Dame) I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed one me, then on those uglie Witches. But she told him, she had no meat: Yes (said he) here is meat enough, and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt start up with her children, and ran at him with their sharp nailes, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his eares, and I heard crie and howle so extreamly, that it appeared he had no defence, but to run out of the hole, as fast as he could. For indeed he came out both extreamly beaten, and extreamly bitten, and all his skin gash like a Spaniſh Jeibin: and one year left behind as a paleone of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered suffici-
ently: and he said he had spoke as he found, for the Damme was a feoule Witch, and the Litter most ugly monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and take them for his best of alliance. And he replied he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must alwaies receive such reward as now you do, but wisdome would do otherwise, a lie is sometimes as much abailable, as a true tale: and faire word never come out of season, and better then we, hold it for a rule woorby Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red night cap, which I know he cennor, nor dare not denie, for all is true without any addition.

The pleasant History

C H A P . a3.

How *Isegrim* proffered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted, and how *Rukemaw* advised the Fox how to carry himself in the fight.

Act. viii. B. 4. C. 5.

The Wolfe affered the Fox: I may well forbear (false
villaine as thou art) thy mocks and scogges, but thine
injuries I will not. You say, I was almost dead for hunger,
when you helpt me in my nad: but thou liest falsely therein,
for it was nothing but a Hare bone thou gabest me, when thou
hadst grawed all the meat thereof: and therfore know in this
thou injurist my reputation, againe thou accusist me of trea-
son against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for
certayne treasure thou saiest is in Hasterloc: also thou hast
abused and slandered my wife, which will eber be an infamie
to her name, if it be not rebenged: these things considered, I
have forborne you long, therefore note look not to escape, where-
fore being there is no other testimonie but our alone conscien-
ces: here before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my
Noble Lords, friends and alliances: here I affirme and will
approue to the last drop of my bloud, that thou Reynard the
Fox art a false Traitor and a murtherer, and this I will ap-
proue and make good upon thy bodie within the Lists of the
field, bodie against bodie, by which meanes our strife shall have
an end. and in witnessse whereof I cast thicke here my Glove,
which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for mins
injuries; or else die like a Recreant.

Reynard was something perplext when he saw this, for he
knew himself much too weak for the Wolfe, and feared to come
by the boord: but straight remembryng the advantage he had,
by reason the Wolfs fore-clawes were pulled away and that
they were not yet fully cured, he said, Whatsoeuer he be that
saith I am a Traitor or a murtherer I say he lieth in his throat,
especiallly Isegrim abobe all others: for sole, thou bringest me
to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in signe
whereof I take up the gage, and throw down mine, to approue
all thy wodds lies and falsehoods.

Thicke.

of Reynard the Fox.

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This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted the battell, commanding them to put in their sureties, that the next morrow they shuld trie the combat: then stipt forth the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolfe: and for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Wzach and Bycelus.

The pleasant History



Alman
Bk 4. Cap 6

The Morall.

By the Wolfes
challenging
the combat of
the Fox, is
shewē the
madnesse of
rage & fury, &
how negligent
it is in respe-
cting its owne
hazard, so it
may do mis-
chiefe to the
adversary.

The Foxes
accepting of it
shewes how
when policy
hath no other
shifting hole,

Wolfe
abt von
Schlickau

When all ceremonies were finished, the she Ape tooke Reynard aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take care of your selfe in this battell, be bold and wise, your Uncle taught me once a prayer of singular vertue, for him whiche was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholler and Clerke, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be overcome in combat, and therefore my best Nephew be not afraid, for to morrow I will read it ober to you, and the Wolfe shall never prebatte against you. The Fox gabe her many thankes for her faveours, and told her his quarrell was good and honest, and therefore he had no doubt of happy successe: so all that night he rested with his kinsfolkes about him, who drave away the tyme with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukewaw his Aunt, still beat her braine how to worke him advantage in the combat, wherefore she caused all his haire to be shaven of, even from his head to the taile, and then she anointed all his body quite over with oyle of Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the Wolfe

Wolfe could catch no hold of him: besides hee was round, fat and plump of body, whiche much abated to his aduantage: then she advised him that night to drinke exceeding much, that he might be more apt to pise in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came to the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see tine fitting, pisse upon your bush taile, and strike it in the Wolfe face, and as neere as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: and but at these especiall times keepe your taile as close as can bee betweene your legges, lest hee catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also looke carefully to your selfe at the first and by all meanes shun his blowes, making him to toyle and runne after, especially there where most dust is, and spring it up with your feet, make it stie in his eyes, take your aduantage, and smite and bite him, where you may doe him most mischiefe, eber and anon striking him on the face with your taile full of pisse, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and weary him, that his fat not being fully cured of their hurt by the losse of his shewe (which you cauled to be pulled off) he will not be able to persue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weake. This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your selfe in these cases, Art prebat-
lerh as much as courage: therefore regard your selfe well, that not onelie your selfe, but your whole familie may gaine honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charme of pzaier whiche your Uncle Martin taught me) by whiche you may be invisible, it is this whiche followeth, then laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorsons, Alsbuifrio. Now Nephew, assure your selfe you are free from all mischiefe or danger whatsoeuer, therefore go to your rest, for it is neare daie, and some sleepe will make the bodie better disposed.

The Fox gave her infinite thankes, and told her she had bound him (to her) a seruant for eber: and in those holie words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremooveable, and so he laid him downe to rest under a Tree in the grasse, till it was

that then it growes despe-
rate, and will
out face any
thing to the
uttermost dan-
her.

By the fhee
Apes counsell
is wewed, the
cure of a true
friend, which
is then ever
most busie,
when hee sees
his companion
in danger, and
leaves no way
unsought that
may free him
from trouble.

*To see what difference
it will make.*

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was Sun rise : at what time trester came unto him and awaked him, and gabe him a fat yong Duck to eat, saying, Dear Cousin, I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I tooke from a Robir, here take and eat it, and it shall gib you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him manie thankes and said, it was fortunate hantell, and if he

Handeeld
in Belman



turbled

of Reynard the Fox.

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surbised that day, he shold find he wold requite it: so the Fox ate the Duck without bread or salare, more then his hunger, and to it he dranke fourze great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed where the King stod, with all his knyghts attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus shorne and oyled, he



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said to him: Well Fox, I see you are carefull of your swone safetie: you respect not beaute so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himselfe downe humbly to the earth, both before the King and the Queenes Majesties, went forth into the Field: and at the same time the Wolfe was also readie, and stood boasting, and gibing out many prouid and baine-glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists, were the Lybard and the Losse. These brought forth a booke, on which the Wolfe swore and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traytor, and a Murtherer, which he would probe on his bodie, or else be counted a recreant. Then Reynard took the booke, and swore he lied as a false Traytor and a Thief, which he would probe on his bodie, or be accounted a recreant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the Field had them do their debatre. And then every creature abode the Lists, save dame Rukewaw who stood by the Fox, and had him remember the woordes and instructions she had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seuen yeare old, he had then widdome enough to passe the darkest night without Lanthorne or candle-light, or the help of the Ape, when any occaſion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of widdome more frequent with his companions: and therefore to worke so as he might win the day, which would be an eternall monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (App best Aunt) afflire your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your counsell. I doubt not but my friends shall reap honoꝝ, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said Amen, and so departed.

of Reynard the Fox.

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C H A P. 24.

Of the combate betwixt the Fox and the Wolfe, the event, passages and victory.



When none but the Combetants were in the Lissis, Act. 4. C. 8.
the Wolfe went toward the Fox with infinite rage
and furie, and thinking to take the Fox in his foarfet, the
Fox leapt nimly from him and the Wolfe pursued him, so
that there began a tedious chace betweene them, on which
their friends gazed. The Wolfe taking larger strides then
the Fox often overtoke him, and lifting up his fet to strike
him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face
with his taile, which was all to be pikk, so that the Wolfe
was striken almost blinde, the pikk smarted so extreamly.
And he was forced to rest while he glaired his eies, which
advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with
his fet, and threwo it in the eies of the Wolfe. This grieved
him worse then the former, so that he durst follow him no lon-
ger, for the dust and sand sticking in his eies smarted so sore,

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that of force he must rub and wash it away, which Reynard seeing, with all the furie he had he ran upon him, and with his teeth gabe him three sore wounds on his head, and scoufing said: habe I hit you, Mr Wolfe? I will yet hit you better, you have killid many a Lambe, and many an innocent Beast, and would imposse the fault upon me, but you shall finde the peice of your knavery. I am markt to punish thy sinnes, and I will gide thee the absolution brably. It is good thou use patiencie, for Hell is Pugatory, and thy life is at my mercy. Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneele downe and aske me forgivenesse, and confess thy selfe banquished (though thou beest the worse thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my party makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Isegrim both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to expresse his fury, his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his feet, and stroke the Fox so great a blow, that hee feld him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up againe and encountered the Wolfe, that betweene them began a dreadfull and doubtful combat. The Wolfe was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippere and oyley, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolfe thought to have him surest, he would shif himselfe betwix his legges and under his bellie, and evertie time gabs the Wolfe a bite with his teeth, or a swop on the face with his taile, that the pece Wolfe found nothing but dispaire in the conflikt, albeit his strenght was much the greater.

This many wounds and bings passing on either side, the one expressing cunning, and the other strength, the one furie, the other temperance. In the end the Wolfe being iraged, that the battell had continued so long, (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himselfe, I will make an end of this combat, for I know my very weight to be able to crinch him to pieces, and I lose much of my reputation, to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, he struck the Fox againe so sore ablowe on the head,

with

of Reynard the Fox.

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with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and arise, he caught him in his feet and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have prest him to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends also, and all Isegrime's friends began to shout for joy:

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The Moral.

By the Wolfs furious assailing the Fox, and the Foxes watching and pursuing of advantage is shewed, the folly of rage & passion, and the discretion of temperance and wisdome, the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety; by the pist taile is express the sharp afflictions with which wisdome ever punishes rashnes, and by the losse of the Wolves eie, is shewed, that madnesse and rage is evermore but blindnesse. The Wolfs catching the Fox, and holding him in his power shewes that Fortune sometimes fa-

but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his claves, lying a long, and the Wolfe could not hurt him with his claves, his feet were so soze, onely with his teeth he smach'd at him to bite him, which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolfe on the head with his soze-claves, so that he toze the skin between his browes, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolfe to infinite torment, and he howled out exreamlie: then Isegrims wiping his face, the Fox tooke advantage thereof, and with his strugling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolfe was angrie, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his armes, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great was their contention, but anger now made the Wolfe forger his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into Isegrims mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolfe to the Fox, Now either yield thy selfe as banquished, or else certainly I will kill thee, neither thy dust, thy pisse, thy mocks, nor any subtile invention shall now save thee, thou art now left utterlie desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this he thought it was a hard election, for both brought his ruine: and suddenly concluding, he said, Deare Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yield to be your servant, and at your commandements will travell for you to the Holy Land, or anie other Pilgrimage, or do anie service which shall be beneficall to your soul or the soule of your fore-fathers: I will doe for the King or for our holie Father the Pope, I will hold of you my Lands and revenues, and as I, so shall all the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be a Lord of manie Lords, and none shall dare to moove against you: besides, whatsoeuer I get of Pullaine, Geese, Partriges, or Plover, flesh, or fleshe, you, your wife and children shall habe the first choice, ere any come in my belly. I will ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you goo, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtile, we two jayned together, what force can prevaile against us?

Agaike,

Of Reynard the Fox.

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Againe, we are so neere in bloud, that nature forbids there should be any enmitie betwixne us: I would not have fought against you, had I beene sure of victorie, but that you first appealed me, and then you know of necessitie I must do my uttermost: I have also in this battell beene courteous to you, and not shewed my woorst violence, as I woulde on a straunger, for I know it is the dutie of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you might well perceive by my running from you, I tell you, it was an action much contrarie to my nature, for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me, by any thing more then the blemish of your eie, for which I am sorie, and wist it had not hapned: yet there-
by know that you shall reap rather benefit then losse thereby, for when other Beest in their sleepe shut two windowes, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children and lineage, they shall fall doone at your feet before you in any presence: there-
fore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that availe you, when you shall never live in safetie for feare of revengement of my kindred: therefore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashnesse is ever the mother of repen-
tance: but Uncle, I know you to be valient, wise, and discreet, and you rather seeke honor, peace, and godfame, then bloud and rebenge.

Hegrim the Wolfe said, Infinitie dissembler, how faine wouldest thou be fited of my seritude: too well I understand thee, and know that if thou were safe on thy feet, thou wouldest forswear this submission: but know all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransome, for thee and thy friends I esteem them not, nor beleeebe any thing thou hast uttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Linie-bush, chasse cannot deceiue me: O how wouldest thou triumph if I should beleeebe thee, and say I wanted wit to understand thee, but then shalt know I can look both on this side and beyond thee, thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. Thou saist thou hast spared me in the battell: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how falselie thou liest,

you fooles,
but never
gives them
grace to enjoy
the benefit.

The Foxes
Harting of
the Wolfe,
shewes, that
whensoever
wisdome is
oppreſſed, it
hath yet ſtill
one temperate
means or o-
ther, to gaine
his own liber-
ty, and that
faire words do
ever either
vanquish or a-
ſtoniſh. Laſtly
by the weake
Foxes conque-
ring the ſtrong
wolfe, is shew-
ed, that in all
theſe accident
of change, nei-
ther force, rage
nor violence
do prevaile ſo
much as wi-
dome, discreti-
on, and tempe-
rate and wary
carriage.

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thou neber gabest me a time to breathe in, nor will I now give
thee a minute to repent in, and the rather when I thinke of the
dishonour thou didst to my bed, and hows inhumanely thou didst
rabish my dear wife Dame Arsewinde.

Now whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox behought
himself how he might best get free, and thrusting his other
hand downe betweene his legges, he caught the Wolfe fast by
the stomes, and he wrung him so extreamly hard thereby, that
he made him shrieke and howle out with the anguish: then the
Fox drebbe his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolfe was
in such wondrous torment, that he had much adoe to containe
himself from sounding: & this torment exceeded aboue the
paine of his sie, and in the end he fell over and over in a
swound: then presently Reynard leapt upon him, and drebbe
him about the Lists and drag'd him by the legges, and struck,
wounded and bit hi n in many places, so that all the whole
field might take notice therof.

Clemens 154. C. 9.

At this all Isegrims friends were full of sorrow, and with
great weeping and lamentation went to the King, and prayed
him to be pleased to appease the combat, and take it into his
owne hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Ly-
bard and the Lesson (being Marshals) entred the Lists, and
told the Fox, and the Wolfe, that the King would speak with
them, and that the battell should there end, for he would take
it into his own hands, and determine therof: as for them-
selves they had done sufficently, neither would the King lose
either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gabe
him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thanke them, and what pleasest
my Lord the King to command I am readie to obey, for mine
ambition is no further then to be victor, therefore I beseech
you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed
by their advice. They answered it was reason: so presently
came forth Dame Slopecard and Grimbert her husband Dame
Rukewaw with her two sisters, Bicelus and Fulrumpe, her
two sonnes, and Malice her daughter, the field Mouse, the
Weasell, and abwe an hundred which would not have come

if

of Reynard the Fox.

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if the Fox had left the conquest : for to him that hath honor, will ever flock attendants, but to him that is in losse will nothing but contempt follow. Alas the Fox came to the Weber, the Otter, and both their wifes Pauncerrote, and Ordegale and the Otkrole, the Marrin & the Fitchews, the Firret, the Squirrell, and a wold more then I can name, and all because he was the victor : nay divers which before had complained of him, were now of nearest kindred ; and readis to do him all service. This is the fashion of the wold, he that is rich and in faveur, can never be paez or hungrie for friendship, every one will seem to love him, every one will imitate his fashions.



Then was a soleinne feast held, Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winded, Shadomes, and all instruments warbled, and everyone cried, Praised be heaben for this gloriouz Conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great ioy and gladnesse : then asked their opinions whether he should yield the victorie to the King or no ; and Dannie

Slopard

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Sleopard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your honour, nor may you denie it. And (so the Marshals going before) they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on either side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrels sounding before him.



corbea

of Reynard the Fox.

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When Reynard came before the King he fel on his knees, and the King bad him stand up, and said to him: Reynard you may wel rejoice, for you have won much honur this day, therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your obne will leads you, for all contestations I take upon my self, and wil have it discut by the wilest of the Kingdome, as soone as I legrims wounds shal be cured, at what time I wil send for you, and so proced to judgement.

My worthy and dzed Lord (said the Fox) I am wel ap- paid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highnesse Court, there were many malitious persons which sought my life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by forning with mine enemies against me, and thinking the Wolfe had greater labour then I with your Majesie: this was the ground of their indignation, wherin they shewed their simplicite, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennell of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghill, where they waited for such as should bring them meat, anon they saw a Hound come out of the kitchen, which had thence brought a goodlie rib of Beef: but the Cooke pursuing him, threwo hot scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder par's: but notwithstanding atay he went with his boote: but when his fellows perceited him, they called to him, and said: O how much art thou bound to the god Cacke which hath given thee that goodlie bone, so well furnishit with flesh: but the Dogge replied, You speake according to your knowledge, and praise me in such sort, as you came before with the bone in my mouth: but if you please to looke upon me behind on my buttockes, you shall finde how dearly I paied for it, and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the haire and skinne flaid from his hinder loines: they began to be agast and amazed at his torment, neither would they any more of his fellowship, but fled and ratne away from him. In the same sort, my Lord these false and unwoorthy Weast, when they are made Lords, possesse

The pleasant History

their desrees, and are mightie and renowned: then do they exect, pull and pole the poe and nadie, and eat them up like so many hunger-starved Hounds, for they are the dogges with bones in their meuts, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise al their actions: no man dare offend them, nay, many assist and help them in their unfaulfull actions, onely that they may liche their fngers, and be partakers of their extortions.

¶ (my dear Lord) how can these men go safelie, which gos thus blinded: or how can they exect but a shamesfull fall, whose steps are so uncertaine: neither can any man pity them when their woiks are disclosed, but continuall curses and upbraidinges follow them to the grabe with destruction, many of the e habe lost their haire (which is their friends) as the Hound did, and habe none left to cobre their mischiefs, but all forsayke them as the Hounds did the dogge which was scalded.

My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this mozell example: and it will nothing impaire the greatnessse of your vertue, for doubtlesse many of these evill extorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Townes, Cities, and great Lords houses, who cut face the poe, and sell away their freedomes and priziledges, and threaten things upon them, which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are bilde, and heaben bath for them a judgement: but of these errozs I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquit us nobly from the same, I fear no creatures accusations, for I will ever be the for though all my friends swear to the contrarie. My Lord, you I adore above all mortall creatures living, nor can any widdome divert me from you, but I will shide by you to the last gaspe, and though malice habe told your Highnesse the contrary, yet I have ever disproued them, and so will do to the last moment.

of Reynard the Fox.

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C H A P. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him
the greatest in his Land, and of his noble returne
home with all his kindred.

TH E King said Reynard, you are one that owe me ho-
mage and fealtie, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it: And for



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your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my priby
Council. Take heed you do not any thing un rechtly, for here
I place you in all your power and authozity as formerly you
were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truely.
For as long as you imploy your boit unto vertuous actions, so
long the Court cannot misse you: for you are a Starre, whose
lustre exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischieves,
and preventing them. Thereforre remembre the Mazzall you
your selfe told me, and be a lover of truthe and equity. From
henceforh I will be governed by your wisdome, and there
shall not breath that creature in any kinde done which
shall doe you injurie, but I will highly revenge it. This you
shall proclaime through all the Nation, and be the chiefest
Gouvernour in the same, for the Office of high Baillife here I
freely bestow upon you; and I know you may reap great ho
norur thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King,
but he told them it was much short of that he intended to do
for their sakes: and advised them all all to admonish him to be
carefull of his faith and loyaltie. This said Danie Rukewaw,
Welebe it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear
you the contrarie: for should he prove otherwise, we would re
nounce him. Then the Fox also thanked the King with fair and
curteus wordz saying: (My gracious Lord) I am not woz
thy of these high honours you do me: yet will eber stidy with
my serbice how to deserbe them: noz shall my councell at any
time be wanting. And this said, he tooke his humble leabe
of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and
kindred.

Now whilist these passages hapned, Fruine the Bear, Ti
bert the Cat, and Arlewind and her children, with the rest
of their Lineage, dzebo the Wolfe out of the field, and laid
him upon soft litter and hay, and covered him all over very
warine, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of
sime and twenty, by the help of mary skilful Leeches and
Surgions. His sienesse and weaknesse was so great, that his
feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chasfed him on the tem
ples



The Morall.

By these hon-
ors done to
the Fox byth
Lion, is shew-
ed that seldom
one good for-
tune commeth
without ano-
ther, and he
that hath once
archived fame
and renowne,
to him wil the
world fly, and
dignity on digni-
ty shall be
heaped upon
him as on the
contrary part,
he that is once
fallen, either in
state or reputa-
tion, it is a
thing of much
difficulty to see
him advanced
without mirac-
le, for world-
ly men are sa d
to be like
Dogges,
which when
one of their
owne kind is
downe, all the
rest will fall

bles and under the eies, till he leapt out of his swound, and
bowled so loud that all were amazed which heard him: but
the Physicians gaba him Cordials to drinke, and a dormiture
so portion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife
telling her there was no danger, or perill of his life. So the
Court brake up, and every Beast returned to his owne home.

Amongst

The pleasant History

upon him and worry him. But wise men or good men (for both are scarce) are said to be like Hogs, which when one of their kind is down all the rest will presently assist and help him.

For any thing else contained in this Chapter, it is either Moralized by the speeches of the Fox, or else by the Author.

Amongst the rest Reynard the Fox tooke his leabe of the King and Duxene, she desired him not to be long absent fro them. To whom he answered, that he would be eber readie at their serbice, as was his bounden dutie, and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And so beggynge licence of his Majestie in all solemn manner and with faire speech, he departed from the Court.



of Reynard the Fox.

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Was never creature that ever flattered ymber or to better purpose, for he that could do the like, might be a master of the eight liberall Science. And no Lord, either Spirituall or Temporall but would have an eare open to his language. Nor died he without issue, for he hath children almost in all places.

And indeed he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper as the world goeth: Though he want his heire, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plaine-dealing is now an exile, and covetousnesse and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements: not the Popes Palace, the Court of Empercours, Kings and Princes cannot be excused of this error.

Money is now grown the onely Favourite of the times, the very Church Idoll, and the Countrey worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things: And mad men trabaile over the world to gaine this folly, this fashion: Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

Thus is the worlds custome, and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Onely that these hainouse sinnes of falsehood, Theft, Murther, and Ambition, can never walke but hand in hand with Judgement: From which I heartily pray that the hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walke in those pathes which shall be suitable to verue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdauds are no fit Theame for me to treat of, since at the last day ebery one is sure to gibe an account for his owne burthen.

With Reynard all his friends and kinsfolkes to the number of xvj, tooke their leabe also of the King, and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature that he had lived well, and lived so far in the Kings fauour: for now he had power enough to advance whom he pleased, and pull downe any that envied his fortune.

Ullman. B4. C. 13

The pleasant History

After some travell, the Fox and all his friends came to his
Borough or Castle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble
and courteous manner) tooke leaue of other, and Reynard did



to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for the
love and honour he had receivid from them, promising ever-
more to remaine their faithfull servant, and to send them in
all

of Reynard the Fox.

all things he bera in his life or goods might be abatleable unto them: and so shooke hands and departed.

The Fox went in to Dame Ermelin his wife, who welcomed him with great tendernes: And to her and her Children, he related at large all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court, and mist in rite or circumstance thereto. Then grew they prouid that his fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his daies from thenceforth (with his wife and children) in great joy and content.

Who whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or less then you have heard: I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports. Only this which you have alreadie heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Or if any refuse, he shall not notwithstanding be accounted an Heretick, since he that onely saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this world believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plates both Cornick and Mozall, which figure out things that never were, only to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and purifie Vertues. In like manner this Book, though it containe but matter of jest and sport, yet if he look seriously therunto, he may haply find much Mozall matter and wisdom, worthy his consideration. Goodnesse nor any God men shall he find in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his stony part as his conscience shall instruct him: If any find himself too much opprested, let him shake it off with amendment: If any be clear, let him hold on his path, and shoid stumbling: And if any take distaste or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his language. But if all things suit to my wist imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salure the world with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Mozals.

—written
from a
note in
the
margin.

For this edition added
by the Author of the
Second Part





A

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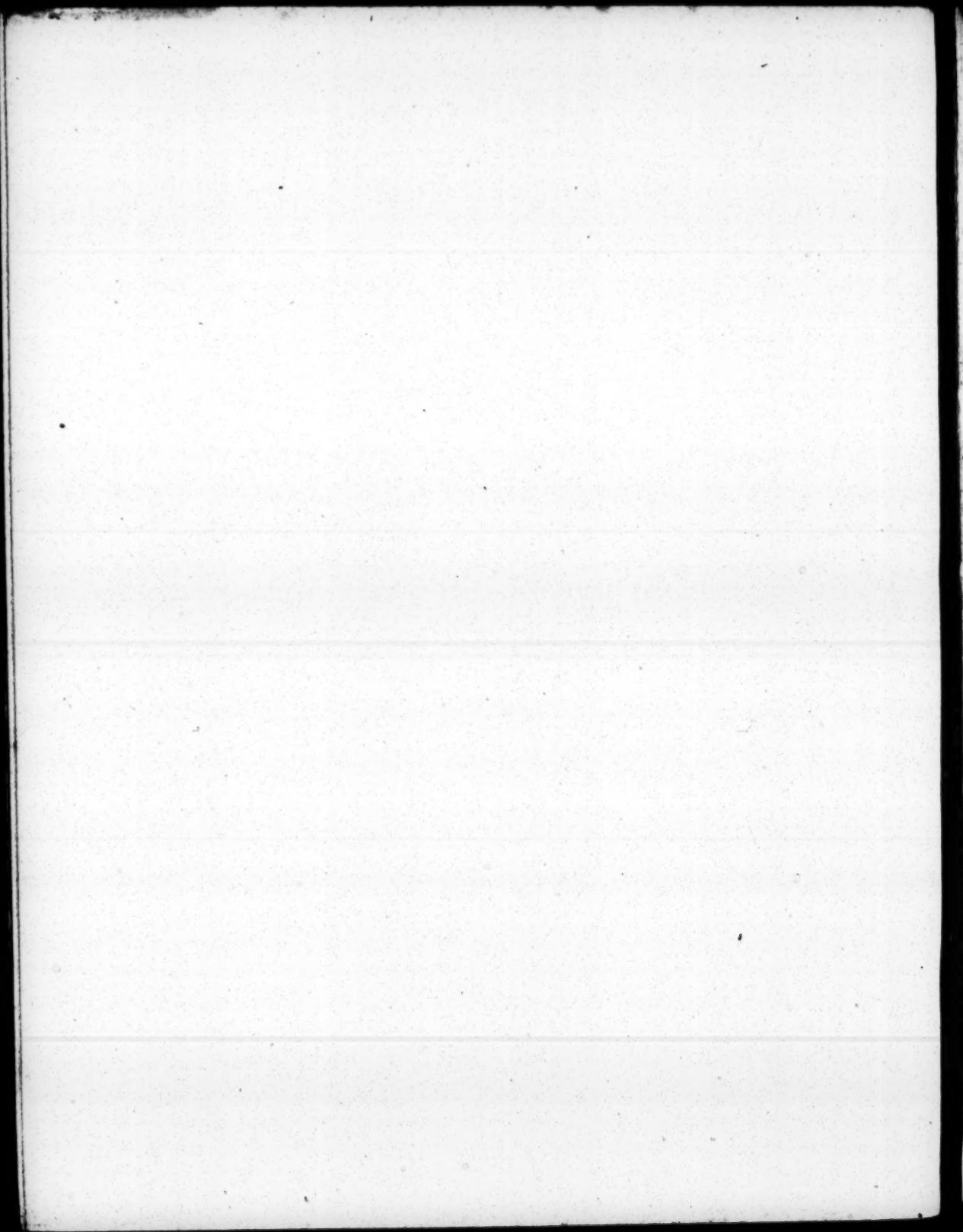
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F I N I S.

Das ist ein T

ein grüner Wolf





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